

Cottage Line Dune Integrity Assessment Volume 2 – Additional Scenarios

Presented to:

City of Norfolk, Department of Public Works

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Prepared by:



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Approach	5
3. Storm Waves and Water Levels	6
3.1. Water Levels	6
3.2. Wave Heights and Periods	8
4. Beach Profile Change Modeling	11
4.1. Introduction	11
4.2. Sediment Characteristics	11
4.3. Existing Conditions Dune Erosion Potential	12
4.4. Impact of Dune Modifications	18
5. Effects of Future Relative Sea Level Rise	26
6. Summary and Conclusions	32
7. References	34
Appendix A: Existing Condition Beach and Dune Profiles	
Appendix B: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, Existing Conditions	
Appendix C: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +18 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation	on
Appendix D: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +16 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation	on
Appendix E: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +14 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation	on
Appendix F: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, Existing Conditions Initialized from 2009 Nor's Post Storm Profile	easter

Appendix G: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +18 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation Initialized from 2009 Nor'easter Post Storm Profile

Appendix H: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +16 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation Initialized from 2009 Nor'easter Post Storm Profile

Appendix I: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +14 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation Initialized from 2009 Nor'easter Post Storm Profile

Appendix J: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, Existing Conditions With 1.2 Feet of Relative Sea Level Rise

Appendix K: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +18 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation With 1.2 Feet of Relative Sea Level Rise

Appendix L: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +16 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation With 1.2 Feet of Relative Sea Level Rise

Appendix M: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +14 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation With 1.2 Feet of Relative Sea Level Rise

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Location of Cottage Line dune integrity assessment site	2
Figure 2: Typical elements of bay beach and dune (from Hardaway et al., 2001)	3
Figure 3: Measured significant wave heights at Norfolk wave gage and water levels at Sewells Poin 2009 nor'easter	
Figure 4: Model significant wave heights in Chesapeake Bay and measured water levels at Sewells Point, August 1933 hurricane	
Figure 5: Estimated significant wave heights at Norfolk wave gage and water levels at Sewells Poin Hurricane X	
Figure 6: Estimated significant wave heights at Norfolk wave gage and water levels at Sewells Poin Hurricane Y	
Figure 7: Illustration of dune volume definition and dune erosion classifications	12
Figure 8: SBEACH results at 3 rd Bay St. for existing dune	14
Figure 9: SBEACH results at Beach View St. for existing dune	15
Figure 10: SBEACH results east of Cape View Ave. for existing dune	15
Figure 11: SBEACH results between Inlet Rd. and 1 st Bay St. for dune crest at +14 ft NAVD88, initialized from post-November 2009 Nor'easter profile	24
Figure 12: SBEACH results between Inlet Rd. and 1 st Bay St. for dune crest at +18 ft NAVD88, initialized from post-November 2009 Nor'easter profile	24
Figure 13: Dune elevations around transect 268+68 between Inlet Rd. and 1 st Bay St	25
Figure 14: Future RSLR curves from USACE calculator	26

List of Tables

Table 1: Peak Water Levels for Storms and FEMA / USACE Stillwater Elevations
Table 2: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Existing Conditions Simulations
Table 3: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Existing Conditions Simulations Initialized on Post- November 2009 Nor'easter Eroded Profile
Table 4: Existing Dune Volume Above +8 ft NAVD88 and Within Frontal Dune Reservoir
Table 5: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in 2009 Nor'easter
Table 6: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in 1933 August Hurricane
Table 7: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in Hurricane X (0.5% Annual Chance) 21
Table 8: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in Hurricane Y (0.5% Annual Chance) 22
Table 9: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in 2009 Nor'easter with RSLR28
Table 10: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in 1933 August Hurricane with RSLR . 29
Table 11: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in Hurricane X (0.5% Annual Chance) with RSLR
Table 12: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in Hurricane Y (0.5% Annual Chance) with RSLR

1. Introduction

Moffatt & Nichol was retained by the City of Norfolk on February 27, 2014 to provide coastal engineering support services relative to a dune integrity assessment along a reach of the Ocean View shoreline on the Chesapeake Bay in Norfolk, Virginia. This section of Ocean View shoreline is known locally as Cottage Line, with a short extension into East Ocean View. The dune integrity assessment study is required in order to estimate the potential impacts of man-made alterations to the dune morphology requested / proposed by property owners in the project area.

Moffatt & Nichol submitted an initial Cottage Line Dune Integrity Assessment report to the City on April 21, 2013 (M&N, 2014). That report was distributed by the City to multiple parties, and comments were received on several technical aspects of the study. This present report is a second volume documenting additional scenarios evaluated in light of the comments received. Much of the background information on the existing condition dune system and the modeling approach is repeated from the initial report in this second volume for the reader's convenience.

For the purposes of this report, "Cottage Line" refers to the reach of Ocean View shown in Figure 1, extending from Warwick Avenue to 3rd Bay Street. Present-day primary dune crest elevations in Cottage Line are between +14 and +22 feet NAVD88. In general, the dune crest and back slope are densely vegetated with well-established dune plants. Landward of the primary dune are a line of residential (habitable) structures. At some positions, the seaward edge of these structures is located on the back slope of the primary dune, while at other positions the structures are located well back from the primary dune.

Regular, twice-yearly topographic surveys indicate that the dune crest elevations in Cottage Line have been relatively stable – and in some locations, increasing – since regular beach profile monitoring was begun in 2005. However, there were periods between 2005 and 2013 when the crest elevation decreased between surveys at some Cottage Line transects. Although Hurricane Irene impacted the area in August 2011, there were no indications of severe lingering impacts to the beach and dune system in Cottage Line. This indicates that the dune system is well-established and that this beach is generally able to recover from moderate storm impacts without intervention.

Figure 2 illustrates typical elements of beach and dune profiles (beach berm, primary dune, etc.) and their positions relative to each other. It is noted that not all locations in the bay will have all of these elements present; for example, developed shorelines often lack many of the features landward of the primary dune, due to the presence of hotels, condominiums, and other structures and infrastructure. From right to left (bayward to landward) in the figure, the shallow submerged nearshore area transitions up onto the beach berm, a mildly-sloped expanse of sand that is mostly clear of vegetation. Beaches are naturally shaped by the action of water in the form of tides and waves; dunes are naturally shaped (mainly) by winds acting on dry sand from the beach berm and other dunes.

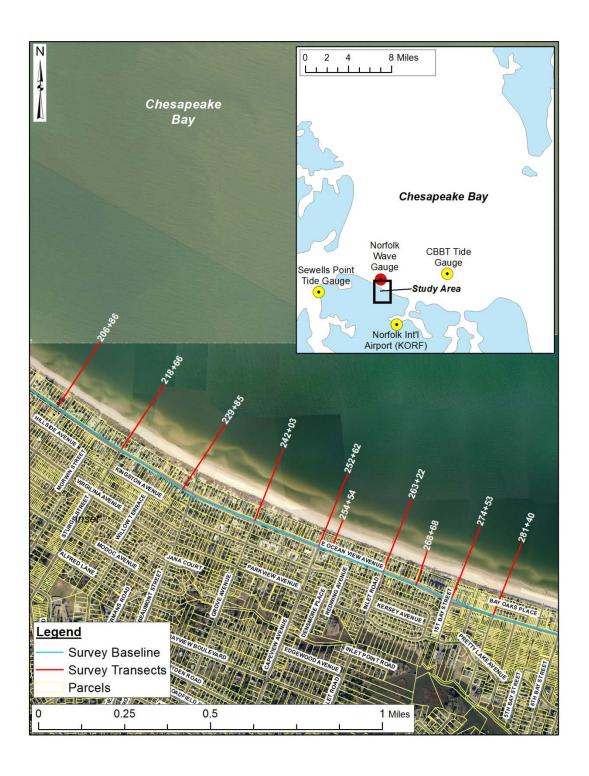


Figure 1: Location of Cottage Line dune integrity assessment site

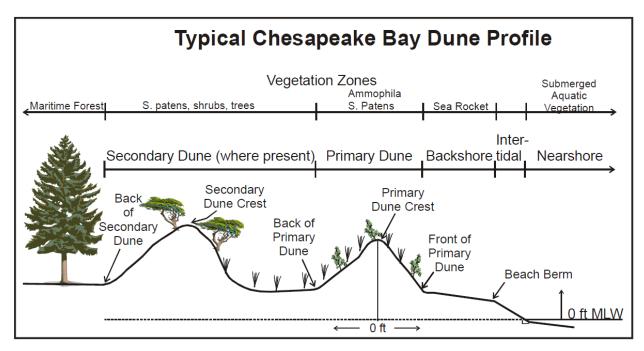


Figure 2: Typical elements of bay beach and dune (from Hardaway et al., 2001)

This study is concerned with the erosion resistance and flood mitigation provided by the primary dune and land immediately behind (leeward of) the primary dune, since property development generally begins in Cottage Line just landward of the primary dune.

Vegetation is a natural and important component of the dune system. Dune grasses and shrubs, such as those noted on Figure 2, help to capture and stabilize sand deposited on the dune. However, the vegetation typically found on primary dunes generally does not provide significant erosion resistance during severe coastal storms, in which the intense wave action undercuts the dune face.

For reference, a similar sediment-stabilizing function is provided by living shorelines (grasses, shrub/scrub vegetation) and by mangroves (in more tropical areas) along shorelines less exposed to significant wave action.

Human actions also affect the width, height, total sand volume, and vegetation of the beach and dunes. Coastal communities, state and federal agencies, and private entities often place sand to build or restore beaches and dunes for increased storm protection. The City of Norfolk has invested significant City funds in beach nourishment, dune enhancement, and shoreline stabilization structures along the Ocean View and Willoughby Spit shorelines.

More than 20 property owners within and near the Cottage Line reach of Norfolk's Ocean View shoreline have expressed a desire to alter the present existing topographic conditions of the primary sand dunes along the shorelines of their individual properties. It is assumed that the dunes on adjacent properties would remain unaltered.

The City's Public Works, Planning, and Recreation Parks & Open Space Departments and the City's Wetlands Board are responsible for maintaining, managing, and regulating its beaches and dunes. The dunes along Cottage Line, and throughout Ocean View, provide varying degrees of flooding protection and erosion protection associated with coastal storms such as hurricanes, tropical storms, and nor'easters. As part of the process for considering applications by property owners to modify the dunes, the City needs to understand the impacts that such modifications would likely have on the capacity of the dunes to resist and mitigate coastal storm damage.

The City also has a responsibility to regulate actions in the flood zones designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in accordance with the requirements of participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These requirements are outlined in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Among the many requirements of 44 CFR associated with the NFIP, Part 60.3(e)(7) states that the community (i.e. the City) must "prohibit man-made alterations of sand dunes and mangrove stands within Zones V1-30, VE, and V on the community's FIRM which would increase potential flood damage." The City's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) does identify such V zones (also known as coastal high hazard areas) along the Chesapeake Bay shoreline of Cottage Line, Ocean View, and Willoughby Spit.

The City has requested Moffatt & Nichol to provide technical services to assess the present capacity of the Cottage Line dunes to resist storm damage and to assess whether resident-proposed modifications to the dunes would increase potential coastal flood damage. Specific tasks requested by the City and documented in this present volume two report include the following:

- simulation of dune profile modifications that include the placement onto the dune face of sand volumes removed from the dune crest, balancing cut and fill to the extent practical;
- simulation of dune profile response to two storms occurring consecutively (back-to-back) with no human rebuilding of the beach or dune between the first storm and the second storm;
- simulation of modified dune profile response to storms including the impacts of relative sea level rise

The above additional scenarios were evaluated to address comments on the original study by Cottage Line residents, FEMA, Hampton Roads Planning District Council (HRPDC), and others.

2. Approach

Figure 1 shows the Cottage Line study site with streets and City survey transects labeled. An inset map indicates the study area's position within the southern Chesapeake Bay. Coastal processes in the study area are influenced by diurnal astronomical tides, setup and set-down in tidal water levels ("surges") due to wind and atmospheric pressure effects, locally-generated wind waves, and waves propagating from the Atlantic Ocean.

The most severe elevated wind, wave, and surge conditions affecting Cottage Line are the result of tropical storms, hurricanes, and extratropical cyclonic storms (nor'easters). The high water levels associated with these storms allow severe storm-generated waves to impact the coastal system at higher elevations (i.e. further landward on the beach and dune), causing significant erosion and/or breaching of frontal dunes. The purpose of the project is to characterize the ability of the existing beach and dune system in Cottage Line to resist breaching by storm waves. The approach to the study is to apply a beach and dune profile change model to simulate the dune erosion likely to occur under a series of intense coastal storms.

The study is concerned primarily with the ability of the primary dunes along Cottage Line to protect structures and infrastructure from storm waves and surges. The measurable characteristic of the dune for judging its protective capacity is the dune's ability to resist breaching or severe overwash in combined high water levels and intense wave energy associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, and severe subtropical storms (nor'easters). This capacity is developed through both dune height (crest elevation) and dune width, which may also be expressed as the volume of sand existing in the dune above some elevation. This study utilizes the dune volume seaward of the seaward property line and above the elevation +8 feet NAVD88.

A "design storm" approach is taken in this study, in which representative historical storms are assumed to be indicative of the range of storm conditions that would be likely to impact the dune system. The approach taken is similar in concept to that taken by the USACE Norfolk District in its Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Study for Hampton, Virginia (USACE, 2002) and in its recent Limited Reevaluation Report, Willoughby Spit and Vicinity, Norfolk, Virginia (USACE, 2013). The primary differences are that the present study used a more limited number of design storms, because the aim of the present study is to assess the dune's ability to resist very severe storm wave and water level conditions. Multiple severe storms have occurred at the project site, including three storms – Tropical Storm Ernesto in October 2006, a nor'easter in November 2009 and Hurricane Irene in 2011 – that occurred recently enough that both water levels and waves were recorded by reliable instruments near the project site. Water levels were measured at Sewells Point for other storms included in this study – the August 1933 hurricane, the Ash Wednesday storm (nor'easter) in March 1962, and Hurricane Isabel in 2003. The available data allow the reasonable hindcasting of those storms' waves near the project site.

3. Storm Waves and Water Levels

Damage associated with coastal storms (such as hurricanes, tropical storms, nor'easters) typically comes from wind action, wave action, and/or storm surge. Dunes such as those found in Cottage Line do not provide significant wind damage mitigation, and wind damage is not considered further in this report. The dunes do provide meaningful protection from direct storm surge flooding and wave action. This chapter describes the storm surge and wave conditions used as input to model simulations and coastal engineering analyses focused on evaluating the degree of storm protection provided by the Cottage Line dunes.

When adjusted for historical sea level rise, the August 1933 hurricane remains the highest peak water level of any coastal storm affecting Norfolk since 1928; this storm's peak measured water level is equivalent to the 1% annual chance (100-year return period) water level from the effective Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Norfolk (FEMA, 2009). FEMA uses the 1% annual chance coastal storm as the "Base Flood" for the FIS and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). However, it is well known that events more severe than the 1% annual chance do occur – as most recently demonstrated by Hurricane Sandy (2012). Therefore, for thoroughness in this dune integrity assessment, design storms more severe than the August 1933 hurricane were included; these storms are referred to herein as Hurricane X and Hurricane Y. Water levels for Hurricane X were developed by scaling the storm surge from the August 1933 hurricane to peak at the 0.5% annual chance (200-year return period) water level from the effective FIS (FEMA, 2009). Hurricane Y has a peak water level at the 90% confidence limit for the 0.5% annual chance water level from extreme value analysis on long-term data at Sewells Point. Waves for Hurricane X and Hurricane Y were equivalent to the August 1933 hurricane waves.

3.1. Water Levels

The most relevant long-term tide gage to this project site is NOAA #8638610 at Sewells Point, approximately 6 miles west of Cottage Line (Figure 1). Hourly measured water levels are available for this location since the original gage deployment in 1928. Water levels for the August 1933 hurricane were adjusted for sea level rise between 1933 and 2013 by adding 1.17 feet to the Sewells Point measured values, based on a sea level rise rate of 1.46 feet per 100 years (NOAA, 2014).

The seven design storms all have peak water levels above +5.0 feet NAVD88. For reference, the peak water levels for each storm, the FEMA September 2009 effective FIS stillwater levels and the USACE 2013 Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) stillwater levels for the Willoughby Spit and Ocean View shoreline in Norfolk are shown in Table 1.

When adjusted for sea level rise that has occurred since 1933, the historical hurricane of August 1933 – the highest water level in the entire Sewells Point tide gage record – is equivalent to the FEMA FIS 1% annual chance stillwater level. If relative sea level rise continues at the current rate without accelerating, all else remaining the same, water levels in Norfolk would increase by 0.44 feet in the next 30 years and by 0.73 feet in the next 50 years.

A primary implication of sea level rise is that water levels with higher return periods today will be lower return period (more frequent) events in the future, due to the higher base tide levels to which the storm surge will be added. As an illustration, in 55 years the August 1933 hurricane's peak present-day water level of +7.4 feet NAVD88 would increase by 0.8 feet to +8.2 feet NAVD88, equivalent to Hurricane X. This means that a 200-year return period event today (Hurricane X) would become approximately a 100-year return period event in 55 years.

Table 1: Peak Water Levels for Storms and FEMA / USACE Stillwater Elevations

Description	Water Level (feet NAVD88) ¹				
_	Measured at Sewells				
	Point, adjusted for sea				
	level rise				
Hurricane Y (0.5% annual chance) ²	+9.1				
Hurricane X (0.5% annual chance) ²	+8.2				
August 1933 hurricane	+7.4				
Ash Wednesday Storm (1962)	+6.4				
Hurricane Isabel (2003)	+6.3				
November 2009 nor'easter	+6.0				
Hurricane Irene (2011)	+5.9				
Tropical Storm Ernesto (2006)	+5.0				
	FEMA September 2009	USACE 2013 Limited			
	FIS Stillwater Elevation	Reevaluation Report			
	Table				
500-year return period (0.2 % annual	+8.9	+8.4			
chance)					
100-year return period (1 % annual	+7.6				
chance)		+7.1			
50-year return period (2 % annual chance)	+6.9	+6.5			
10-year return period (10 % annual chance)	+5.5	+5.2			

¹Measured water levels are adjusted for historical sea level rise up to year 2013. They do not include future sea level rise.

All of the historical storms (plus Hurricane X and Hurricane Y) listed in the upper part of Table 1 were simulated in the SBEACH models. Results are presented in detail in this report for four of those storms: the November 2009 nor'easter, the August 1933 hurricane, Hurricane X, and Hurricane Y. The Ash Wednesday Storm was a nor'easter with peak water levels greater than the peak water level in the November 2009 nor'easter. However, the Norfolk wave gage was not operational in 1962 during the Ash Wednesday Storm. Therefore, the November 2009 nor'easter is presented instead of the Ash Wednesday storm in order to evaluate a severe nor'easter for which measured wave and water level data are available from local measurement stations.

²Hurricanes X and Y are hypothetical design events, not observed historical events. Hurricane X peak water level is based on interpolation between the 1% and 0.2% annual chance stillwater elevations published in (FEMA 2009). Hurricane Y peak water level is based on 90% confidence interval extreme water levels analysis on historical, measured data at Sewells Point.

3.2. Wave Heights and Periods

SBEACH simulations are driven by the combined effects of storm waves acting on elevated storm water levels. At each calculation point along the profile, the model transforms the input wave heights and periods. Wave runup is also computed. The model computes additional elevation of input water levels due to the wave action (wave setup), and these adjusted wave and water level values are used in the profile change calculations. The model then computes the effects of the water levels and wave conditions on the beach and dune during the storm event, resulting in the expected final eroded profile. The wave and water level time series input to the SBEACH simulations for four severe design storms are shown in Figure 3 through Figure 6. Wave inputs for the November 2009 nor'easter were taken directly from measurements by the City's wave gage at Ocean View. Since the wave gage was not operational in 1933, wave inputs for the August 1933 hurricane were taken from the engineering appendix to the USACE LRR (USACE, 2013). The significant wave heights for this storm are lower than those used in the initial Dune Integrity Assessment Study (M&N, 2014), and the wave period at the storm peak increased from 11 seconds to 14 seconds. The updated wave inputs used by USACE in the 2013 LRR are considered to be superior to the initial study's inputs for simulating the August 1933 hurricane.

Wave inputs for Hurricane X and Y are based on those for the August 1933 hurricane, with the significant wave heights scaled up to match extreme wave heights determined by Moffatt & Nichol based on a long-term wave model simulation of the southern Chesapeake Bay. The simulation was conducted in the MIKE 21 SW modeling software and utilized a series of measured wind inputs, water level time series, and Atlantic Ocean wave boundary conditions. The model was initially calibrated to wave conditions measured at the City of Norfolk's wave gage during Hurricane Irene and the November 2009 nor'easter. The calibrated model was run for the time period 1984 to 2013, and extreme wave heights at the Norfolk wave gage position were computed from the model results.

The wave heights shown in the figures and used as input to SBEACH are significant wave heights at the location of the Norfolk wave gage, approximately 1.2 miles off of the shoreline near Warwick Avenue and Beach View Street. Because waves shoal and refract as they approach land, the wave heights over the beach are different than those measured at the Norfolk wave gage. The SBEACH model performs these wave height transformation calculations internally and applies the transformed wave heights to each position on the beach and dune profile.

Significant wave height (H_s) is defined as the average of the highest one-third of waves. The significant wave height is used by most coastal models as an indicator of the wave field. It is understood and accounted for in coastal models and methods – including SBEACH – that the largest waves in a given storm may be 70% to 80% higher than H_s , and these higher waves are those that pose the greatest wave runup risk.

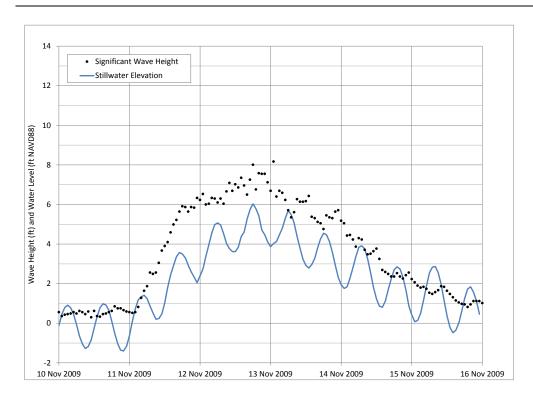


Figure 3: Measured significant wave heights at Norfolk wave gage and water levels at Sewells Point, 2009 nor'easter

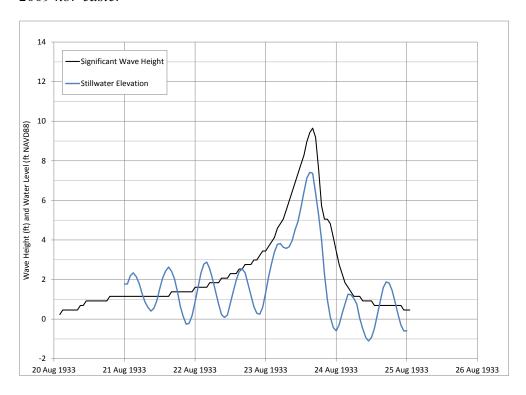


Figure 4: Model significant wave heights in Chesapeake Bay and measured water levels at Sewells Point, August 1933 hurricane

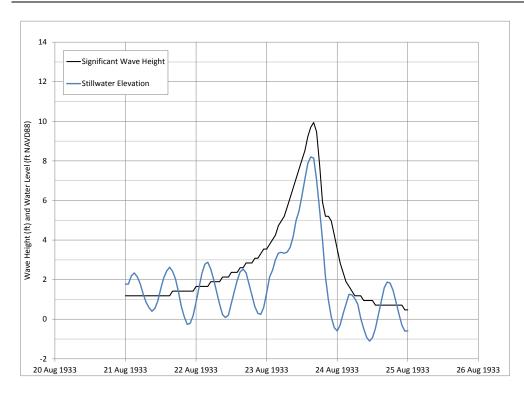


Figure 5: Estimated significant wave heights at Norfolk wave gage and water levels at Sewells Point, Hurricane X

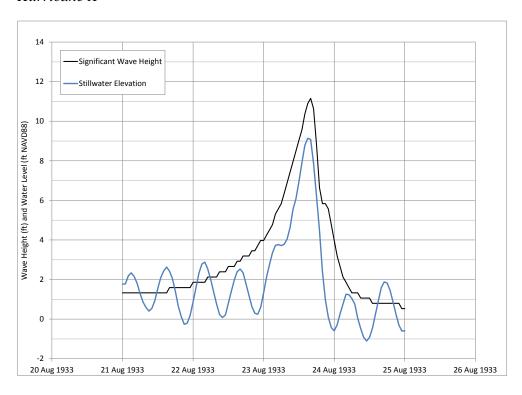


Figure 6: Estimated significant wave heights at Norfolk wave gage and water levels at Sewells Point, Hurricane Y

4. Beach Profile Change Modeling

4.1. Introduction

The central focus of this study is the assessment of the integrity of the Cottage Line dune system – i.e. the dune's ability to resist breaching and severe overwash – during extreme storm events. Dune integrity was assessed using results from beach profile change simulations in the SBEACH computational model. SBEACH is a two-dimensional (elevation [z] and cross-shore distance [x]) model developed by USACE for simulating beach and dune profile change in storm wave and water level conditions. The model is described in detail in the various USACE technical references (Larson, et al., 1989, 1990, 2004; Rosati, et al., 1993); these references and others are available from the USACE Coastal & Hydraulic Laboratory website: http://chl.erdc.usace.army.mil/chl.aspx?p=s&a=Publications;118&g=92.

SBEACH capabilities include the simulation of dune erosion and redistribution of sediments lower in the profile. SBEACH is also capable of simulating wave setup (water level increase at the dune due to wave action), which raises the elevation of wave attack and increases the chance of the dune being overwashed or breached in a storm event.

All of the SBEACH simulations were conducted with initial profiles from the most recent available nearshore, beach, and dune survey profile elevation data. Elevation data utilized in the present study include a field topographic / hydrographic survey along Ocean View beaches completed October 16 – 18, 2013 by Geodynamics, LLC (as a subconsultant to Moffatt & Nichol). City of Norfolk staff surveyors provided data from a January 2014 survey at two transects additional to the regular monitoring transects. Beach profile charts at all 9 transects are included in Appendix A: Existing Condition Beach and Dune Profiles. Note that the vertical scale is exaggerated on the charts, and the profile locations correspond to the numbered transect lines in Figure 1.

The post-storm beach and dune profiles resulting from the SBEACH simulations were inspected and coastal engineering judgment applied to develop conclusions regarding dune integrity for existing conditions and for representative modified dune scenarios.

4.2. Sediment Characteristics

The SBEACH model requires inputs regarding the characteristics of the beach and dune sediments. Historical surface sediment sampling and laboratory gradation testing indicated that a median grain size of $D_{50} = 0.40$ mm is representative of the sand comprising the beach and dune along the Ocean View shoreline. A maximum allowable slope angle before avalanching of 35 degrees was used as a typical value for medium sand.

4.3. Existing Conditions Dune Erosion Potential

SBEACH simulations, for the three intense storms evaluated, indicated that the existing condition dunes would perform as indicated in Table 2. In the table, the primary dune crest elevation is rounded to the nearest foot; dune volume is calculated as the volume per linear foot above elevation +8 ft NAVD88 and seaward of the seaward edge of the property parcel line. Parcel boundaries were taken from the City of Norfolk GIS parcel shapefiles.

Figure 7 illustrates the area used for dune volume calculation and the seaward parcel line. Virginia coastal policy generally defines the coastal primary sand dune as a "mound of unconsolidated sandy soil which is contiguous to mean high water, whose landward and lateral limits are marked by a change in grade from 10% or greater to less than 10%," with additional provisions for vegetation (refer to 4 VAC 20-440-10 Barrier Island Policy). The dune volume relevant to this engineering study and report is a subset of the total volume of the primary dune. Several of the most widely-utilized methods for predicting dune erosion in coastal storms (e.g. FEMA, 2003) consider that the landward retreat of the dune and the reduction in crest height and volume are related to the pre-storm volume of sand in a "reservoir" above the storm's stillwater elevation. The +8 ft NAVD88 elevation is used for discussing the dune volume relevant to dune erosion in Cottage Line, to represent the average stillwater level between the 1% annual chance and the 0.5% annual chance hurricane events.

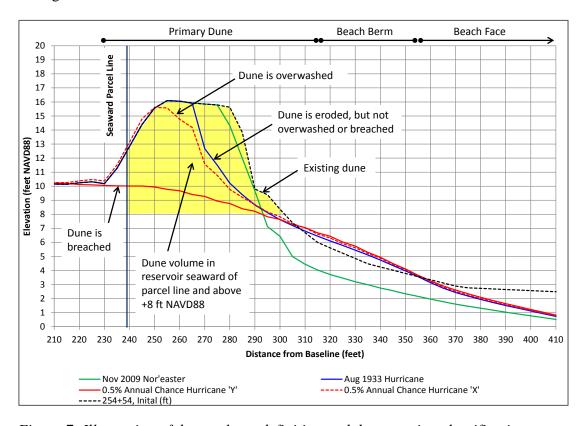


Figure 7: Illustration of dune volume definition and dune erosion classifications

Figure 7 also shows the difference between dune erosion, overwash, and breaching. A dune eroded by a nor'easter or hurricane may still retain sufficient volume to provide flood protection. Overwash occurs when a dune is eroded to the point that waves can flow over the dune crest, accelerating erosion damage and potentially exposing landward areas to flooding from overtopping water. When a dune is breached by a storm, most or all of its capacity to protect landward areas from flooding by storm surge and/or wave runup is eliminated.

Table 2: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Existing Conditions Simulations

Transect Location	Existing Primary Dune Crest Elevation, Volume ¹	November 2009 Nor'easter	August 1933 Hurricane	Hurricane X (0.5% a.c.)	Hurricane Y (0.5% a.c.)
206+86	+14 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Breached	Breached	Breached
Beach View St.	12 cy/LF				
218+66	+16 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Breached	Breached	Breached
Sturgis St.	21 cy/LF				
229+85	+19 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded	Overwashed
Beaumont St.	25 cy/LF				
242+03	+20 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded
Grove Ave.	32 cy/LF				
254+54	+16 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Overwashed	Breached	Breached
E. of Cape View	14 cy/LF				
263+22	+21 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded	Overwashed
Inlet Rd.	20 cy/LF				
268+68	+22 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded
Between Inlet Rd.	30 cy/LF				
and 1st Bay St.	·				
274+53	+18 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Eroded Eroded Eroded		Overwashed
1 st Bay St.	25 cy/LF				
281+40	+20 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded	Breached
3 rd Bay St.	25 cy/LF				

¹Unless otherwise indicated on the individual figures, dune profile charts presented in this report include gridlines such that each grid box is equivalent to a volume of 10 square feet per linear foot which is approximately 0.37 cy/LF.

SBEACH model results for each of the four storms in Table 2, for existing conditions, are provided in Appendix B. As one would expect, transects with lower dune crest elevations and/or lower volumes of sediment in the upper dune suffered more erosion than transects with both higher crests and greater volumes. In the 2009 nor'easter simulation, the dunes' front faces were eroded (for example, results at 3rd Bay Street are shown in Figure 8); no significant coastal flood or wave action at the property lines was indicated at any location. In the August 1933 hurricane simulation, greater dune face and crest erosion resulted at all transects. Overwash was indicated at Cape View Street, and the dune at Beach View Street was breached, allowing wave runup to penetrate to the property line (see Figure 9).

Dunes at three of the nine transects were breached in the Hurricane X simulation in such a way that wave impacts would occur at the seaward parcel lines. Seven of the nine transects showed breaching or overwash in the Hurricane Y simulation. At transect 254+54 East of Cape View Avenue (Figure 10), Hurricane X and Hurricane Y would completely remove the primary dune and cause erosion within the parcel boundaries.

In general, the existing dunes at Cottage Line offer substantial protection from coastal storm surges and waves during the hurricanes and nor'easters that have historically impacted Ocean View. Potential weak points in the dune line exist for storms more intense than the August 1933 hurricane, as indicated by breaching and heavy overwash in the 0.5% annual chance (200-year return period) Hurricane X and Hurricane Y storms simulated in this study. SBEACH model results for each of the four storms in Table 2, for existing conditions, are provided in Appendix B. However, it should be noted that the results are based on current sea levels. As sea level continues to rise at current or accelerated rates, in the coming decades the erosion in the above storms will be more severe and potential flooding risk will increase.

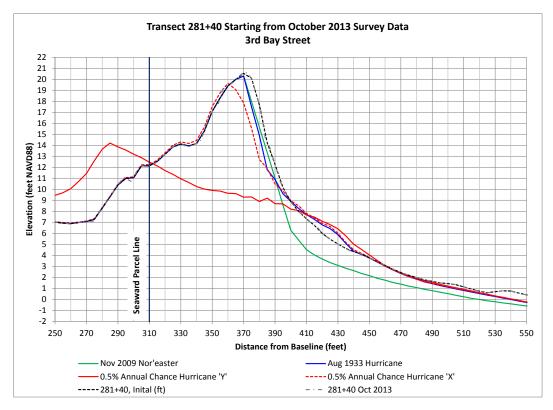


Figure 8: SBEACH results at 3rd Bay St. for existing dune

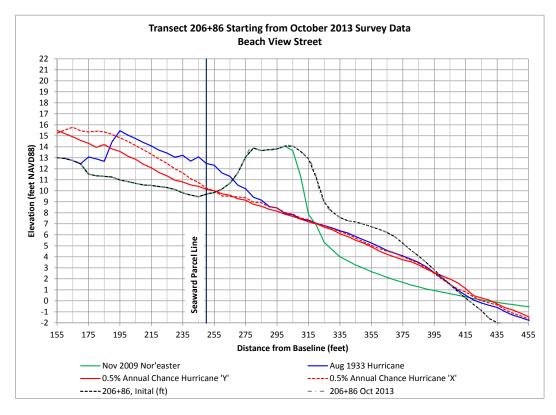


Figure 9: SBEACH results at Beach View St. for existing dune

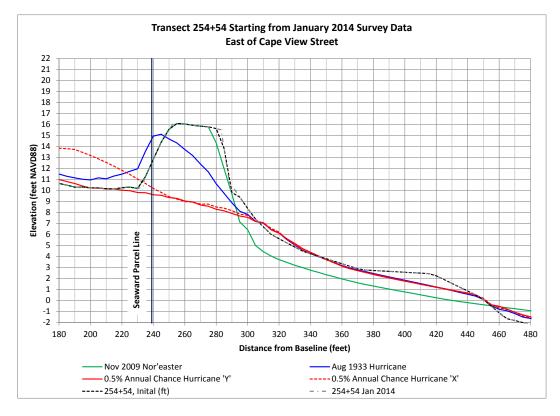


Figure 10: SBEACH results east of Cape View Ave. for existing dune

Multiple reviewers of the initial Dune Integrity Assessment study – including FEMA – commented that the study should examine the impacts of multiple storms occurring in sequence with no significant dune restoration between them. This was addressed in the present study by placing the 2009 Nor'easter SBEACH eroded profiles into the starting (initial) profiles for new SBEACH runs. All of the storms included in the study were then simulated from these nor'easter-eroded initial profiles. SBEACH model results for each of the four storms in Table 3 are provided in Appendix F.

Additional erosion was observed at all of the transects, and some transects were moved from eroded to overwashed or breached status (marked with yellow shading in Table 3). Recall that overwash and breaching indicate the potential for flood damage from wave runup and overtopping on the Cottage Line properties. Transect 254+54 East of Cape View Street shifted from an overwashed to breached condition in the August 1933 storm, as did transect 229+85 at Beaumont Street in Hurricane Y. Transect 281+40 at 3rd Bay Street went from an eroded to an overwashed condition in Hurricane X.

Table 3: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Existing Conditions Simulations Initialized on Post-November 2009 Nor'easter Eroded Profile

Transect Location	Existing Primary Dune Crest Elevation, Volume ¹	November 2009 Nor'easter	August 1933 Hurricane	Hurricane X (0.5% a.c.)	Hurricane Y (0.5% a.c.)
206+86	+14 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Breached	Breached	Breached
Beach View St.	12 cy/LF				
218+66	+16 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Breached	Breached	Breached
Sturgis St.	21 cy/LF				
229+85	+19 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded	Breached
Beaumont St.	25 cy/LF				
242+03	+20 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded
Grove Ave.	32 cy/LF				
254+54	+16 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Breached	Breached	Breached
E. of Cape View	14 cy/LF				
263+22	+21 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded	Overwashed
Inlet Rd.	20 cy/LF				
268+68	+22 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded
Between Inlet Rd.	30 cy/LF				
and 1st Bay St.					
274+53	+18 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Eroded Eroded		Overwashed
1 st Bay St.	25 cy/LF				
281+40	+20 ft NAVD88	Eroded	Eroded	Overwashed	Breached
3 rd Bay St.	25 cy/LF				

In its coastal flood hazard mapping FIRM production, FEMA uses a frontal dune reservoir volume of 540 square feet per linear foot (ft²/LF) as a threshold for determining whether the dune will be removed during the 1% annual chance (100-year return period) coastal flood event. This is at times referred to as the FEMA 540 Rule. The frontal dune reservoir is defined as the dune volume above the 1% annual chance stillwater elevation (+7.6 ft NAVD88 in Ocean View, rounded to +8 ft NAVD88) and seaward of the peak / rear shoulder of the dune. In general, if the frontal dune reservoir volume is less than 540 ft²/LF (or, 20 cy/LF) the dune is considered to be removed during the 1% annual chance coastal flood event. If the frontal dune reservoir volume is greater than 540

ft²/LF the dune will be eroded and will retreat. The detailed methodology for calculating the frontal dune reservoir volume and for determining dune removal and retreat profiles for Flood Insurance Studies is outlined in Appendix D of FEMA's Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners (FEMA, 2003).

Frontal dune reservoir volumes were calculated for the existing conditions Cottage Line dune profiles, and the values are presented in Table 4. Five of the nine transects have frontal dune reservoir volumes less than 540 ft²/LF; these are highlighted by yellow shading in the table.

Table 4: Existing Dune Volume Above +8 ft NAVD88 and Within Frontal Dune Reservoir

	Existing Primary Dune Crest	Interpreted Frontal Dune
Transect Location	Elevation and Volume ¹ Above	Reservoir Volume ² Above
	+8 ft NAVD88	+8ft NAVD88
206+86	+14 ft NAVD88	$365 \text{ ft}^2/\text{LF}$
Beach View St.	12 cy/LF	13.5 cy/LF
218+66	+16 ft NAVD88	$462 \text{ ft}^2/\text{LF}$
Sturgis St.	21 cy/LF	17.1 cy/LF
229+85	+19 ft NAVD88	532 ft ² /LF
Beaumont St.	25 cy/LF	19.7 cy/LF
242+03	+20 ft NAVD88	629 ft ² /LF
Grove Ave.	32 cy/LF	23.3 cy/LF
254+54	+16 ft NAVD88	$329 \text{ ft}^2/\text{LF}$
E. of Cape View	14 cy/LF	12.2 cy/LF
263+22	+21 ft NAVD88	$505 \text{ ft}^2/\text{LF}$
Inlet Rd.	20 cy/LF	18.7 cy/LF
268+68	+22 ft NAVD88	$780 \text{ ft}^2/\text{LF}$
Between Inlet Rd.	30 cy/LF	28.9 cy/LF
and 1 st Bay St.		
274+53	+18 ft NAVD88	705 ft ² /LF
1 st Bay St.	25 cy/LF	26.1 cy/LF
281+40	+20 ft NAVD88	$626 ext{ ft}^2/LF$
3 rd Bay St.	25 cy/LF	23.2 cy/LF

¹Recall this volume is calculated above +8 ft NAVD88 and seaward of the seaward edge of the property parcel as contained in the City GIS parcel shapefile.

Recall from Table 2 that the existing conditions SBEACH models indicated breaching in the 0.5% annual chance Hurricane X storm at the three transects with the lowest frontal dune reservoir volumes –Beach View, Sturgis, and East of Cape View. Beach View and Sturgis Street transects were breached in the August 1933 hurricane, approximating a 1% annual chance coastal storm. It is noted that the 540 Rule was developed by FEMA as a simplified method of artificially eroding the primary frontal dune in preparation for determining coastal high hazard zones ("VE" zones) through local wave transformation calculations. FEMA requires a simplified method in order to efficiently and consistently determine and map coastal flood hazard zones across the entire open Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico coastline. The approach used in the present study – applying the SBEACH model to simulate beach profile change directly in response to *location-specific* design storm time series of waves and water levels – is more applicable to the purposes of the present study.

²Calculated using guidance from Section D.2 in (FEMA, 2003). Compare values to FEMA 540 ft²/LF threshold.

4.4. Impact of Dune Modifications

Dune erosion simulations were run for a series of dune modifications, in order to evaluate the impacts on the capacity of lower crest and lower volume dunes to provide storm damage mitigation. In each of three SBEACH simulation sets, the existing dune crest elevation was cut off down to a lower level, for dune crest elevations at +18, +16, and +14 ft NAVD88. SBEACH model results for each of the lowered dune crest elevation sets are provided in Appendices C through E for single, standalone storms. Appendices G through I provide SBEACH results for the storms initialized from input profiles representing the 2009 Nor'easter eroded dunes, to show the effects of back-to-back storms.

As the dune crest elevation was lowered in each simulation, the removed material (cut) was placed on the seaward face of the dune (fill) with a 5:1 (horizontal:vertical) slope in such a way that the fill volume matched the cut volume. At most of the transects, the volume of sand reservoir available (seaward of the property line) to resist wave action was decreased since some of the material placed on the seaward face of the dune was necessarily placed at a lower elevation than it was located on the landward side. At three transects – at Grove Avenue and near Inlet Road – some of the material cut from the dune crest was located landward of the property line; in some scenarios, when this material was placed on the dune face the dune reservoir volume increased over that of the existing conditions.

Predicted dune erosion increased progressively as the combination of dune height and dune reservoir volume decreased. This study is primarily concerned with evaluating the *potential increase in coastal storm damage potential* associated with ranges of dune height and/or volume reduction. For the purposes of this discussion, the increases in potential for damage from coastal flooding, wave action, and/or erosion at the parcel boundaries are classified as follows, in order of increasing severity:

- No Increase in Flood Damage (NIFD) Erosion of the dune indicated by SBEACH may be greater than for existing conditions, but the dune was not overwashed and the dune crest level was not significantly reduced.
- Increased Damage from Flooding or Waves (IDFW) Dune remains but is very likely to be overwashed or breached in the identified storm event, and the landward areas are likely to be exposed to storm wave runup and flooding.
- Increased Damage <u>plus</u> Erosion or Undermining (**IDEU**) The dune was completely overwashed / breached and reduced to a very flat slope that provides virtually no ability to block storm wave runup and flooding.

Table 5 summarizes the dune reservoir volumes and the damage potential indicated for the November 2009 nor'easter storm SBEACH simulations. Each column indicates the associated modified (lowered) dune crest elevation. Where "n/a" is given, the existing dune crest elevations were already lower than the column heading dune crest elevation, and the results are equivalent to the existing condition results. Table 6, Table 7, and Table 8 display similar information for the August 1933 storm, Hurricane X, and Hurricane Y, respectively. In the tables, results are given for the individual storms as well as for the "back-to-back" storms initialized from the November 2009 nor'easter storm eroded profile, as described previously.

Table 5: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in 2009 Nor'easter

	Existing Crest	Cre	st at	Cre	st at	Cre	st at
Transect	Elevation		8 ft	+16 ft		+14 ft	
Location	and Volume		NAVD88		/D88	NAVD88	
	Storm Sequencing:	Single	Back-to-	Single	Back-to-	Single	Back-to-
	, ,	Storm	Back	Storm	Back	Storm	Back
			Storms		Storms		Storms
206+86	+14 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD
Beach View St.	12 cy/LF						10 cy/LF
218+66	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
Sturgis St.	21 cy/LF				20 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	20 cy/LF
229+85	+19 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
Beaumont St.	25 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	24 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	21 cy/LF
242+03	+20 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
Grove Ave.	32 cy/LF	33 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	30 cy/LF	29 cy/LF	27 cy/LF
254+54	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
E. of Cape View	14 cy/LF				13 cy/LF	13 cy/LF	11 cy/LF
263+22	+21 ft	NFID	NFID	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
Inlet Rd.	20 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	19 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	17 cy/LF
268+68	+22 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
Between Inlet Rd.	30 cy/LF	42 cy/LF	39 cy/LF	40 cy/LF	35 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	27 cy/LF
and 1st Bay St.							
274+53	+18 ft	n/a	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
1 st Bay St.	25 cy/LF		24 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	21 cy/LF
281+40	+20 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
3 rd Bay St.	25 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	24 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	22 cy/LF	19 cy/LF

Table 6: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in 1933 August Hurricane

	Existing Crest		st at	Cre	st at	T	st at
Transect			8 ft		6 ft		4 ft
Location	and Volume	NAVD88			/D88	NAVD88	
	Storm Sequencing:	Single	Back-to-	Single	Back-to-	Single	Back-to-
	storm sequencing.	Storm	Back	Storm	Back	Storm	Back
			Storms		Storms		Storms
206+86	+14 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	$IDFW^1$
Beach View St.	12 cy/LF						10 cy/LF
218+66	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	IDFW ¹	IDFW ¹
Sturgis St.	21 cy/LF				20 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	20 cy/LF
229+85	+19 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
Beaumont St.	25 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	24 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	21 cy/LF
242+03	+20 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
Grove Ave.	32 cy/LF	33 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	30 cy/LF	29 cy/LF	27 cy/LF
254+54	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	IDFW	IDEU
E. of Cape View	14 cy/LF				13 cy/LF	13 cy/LF	11 cy/LF
263+22	+21 ft	NFID	NFID	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW
Inlet Rd.	20 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	19 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	17 cy/LF
268+68	+22 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
Between Inlet Rd.	30 cy/LF	42 cy/LF	39 cy/LF	40 cy/LF	35 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	27 cy/LF
and 1st Bay St.							
274+53	+18 ft	n/a	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	IDFW
1 st Bay St.	25 cy/LF		24 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	21 cy/LF
281+40	+20 ft	NIFD	NIFD	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW
3 rd Bay St.	25 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	24 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	22 cy/LF	19 cy/LF

¹At these locations, the Existing Conditions dune was breached by this storm. The modified dune was similarly breached, but is considered an increase in flood risk as it constitutes a reduction in protection in this presently vulnerable situation.

Table 7: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in Hurricane X (0.5% Annual Chance)

Transect	Existing Crest		st at		st at	Crest at		
Location	Elevation		+18 ft		+16 ft		+14 ft	
Location	and Volume	NAVD88		NAV	/ D88	NAV	/ D88	
	Storm Sequencing:	Single	Back-to-	Single	Back-to-	Single	Back-to-	
		Storm	Back	Storm	Back	Storm	Back	
			Storms		Storms		Storms	
206+86	+14 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	IDFW ¹	
Beach View St.	12 cy/LF						10 cy/LF	
218+66	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	$IDFW^1$	IDFW ¹	
Sturgis St.	21 cy/LF				20 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	
229+85	+19 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	IDFW	IDFW	
Beaumont St.	25 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	24 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	
242+03	+20 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	
Grove Ave.	32 cy/LF	33 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	30 cy/LF	29 cy/LF	27 cy/LF	
254+54	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	IDEU	IDEU	
E. of Cape View	14 cy/LF				13 cy/LF	13 cy/LF	11 cy/LF	
263+22	+21 ft	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDEU	IDFW	IDFW	
Inlet Rd.	20 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	19 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	17 cy/LF	
268+68	+22 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	IDFW	
Between Inlet Rd.	30 cy/LF	42 cy/LF	39 cy/LF	40 cy/LF	35 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	27 cy/LF	
and 1st Bay St.								
274+53	+18 ft	n/a	NIFD	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	
1 st Bay St.	25 cy/LF		24 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	
281+40	+20 ft	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	
3 rd Bay St.	25 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	24 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	22 cy/LF	19 cy/LF	

¹At these locations, the Existing Conditions dune was breached by this storm. The modified dune was similarly breached, but is considered an increase in flood risk as it constitutes a reduction in protection in this presently vulnerable situation.

Table 8: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in Hurricane Y (0.5% Annual Chance)

Transect	Existing Crest		st at		st at		st at	
Location	Elevation		+18 ft NAVD88		+16 ft		+14 ft	
Location	and Volume				/D88	NAVD88		
	Storm Sequencing:	Single	Back-to-	Single	Back-to-	Single	Back-to-	
		Storm	Back	Storm	Back	Storm	Back	
			Storms		Storms		Storms	
206+86	+14 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	IDFW ¹	
Beach View St.	12 cy/LF						10 cy/LF	
218+66	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	IDFW ¹	IDFW ¹	
Sturgis St.	21 cy/LF				20 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	
229+85	+19 ft	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	
Beaumont St.	25 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	24 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	
242+03	+20 ft	NIFD	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	
Grove Ave.	32 cy/LF	33 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	30 cy/LF	29 cy/LF	27 cy/LF	
254+54	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	IDEU	IDEU	
E. of Cape View	14 cy/LF				13 cy/LF	13 cy/LF	11 cy/LF	
263+22	+21 ft	IDFW	IDEU	IDEU	IDEU	IDEU	IDEU	
Inlet Rd.	20 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	19 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	17 cy/LF	
268+68	+22 ft	NIFD	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	
Between Inlet Rd.	30 cy/LF	42 cy/LF	39 cy/LF	40 cy/LF	35 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	27 cy/LF	
and 1st Bay St.								
274+53	+18 ft	n/a	NIFD	IDFW	IDFW	IDEU	IDEU	
1 st Bay St.	25 cy/LF		24 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	
281+40	+20 ft	IDFW	IDEU	IDFW	IDEU	IDEU	IDEU	
3 rd Bay St.	25 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	24 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	22 cy/LF	19 cy/LF	

¹At these locations, the Existing Conditions dune was breached by this storm. The modified dune was similarly breached, but is considered an increase in flood risk as it constitutes a reduction in protection in this presently vulnerable situation.

While dune erosion increased over existing conditions at some transects in the November 2009 nor'easter, the SBEACH simulations did not indicate an increase in coastal flood damage potential for that storm.

In the August 1933 hurricane simulations (Table 6), increases in damage potential were indicated at two transects with a dune crest elevation of +16 ft NAVD88. Damage potential increases were indicated at six of the nine transects with crest elevations of +14 ft NAVD88 when back-to-back storms were considered. Based on these results, a minimum dune elevation of +16 ft NAVD88 and a minimum dune volume of 24 cy/LF are needed to consistently provide protection in the August 1933 hurricane.

In the Hurricane X simulation (Table 7), increase in damage potential was indicated at 3rd Bay Street and Inlet Road transects with a dune crest elevation of +18 ft NAVD88. Three of the nine transects showed increased damage potential with a crest elevation of +16 ft NAVD88. Damage potential increases were indicated at eight of the nine transects with crest elevations of +14 ft NAVD88 when back-to-back storms were considered. A minimum dune elevation of +18 ft NAVD88 and a minimum dune volume of 27 cy/LF are needed to provide protection in a storm equivalent to Hurricane X.

The difference in damage potential between the August 1933 hurricane and the 0.5% annual chance Hurricane Y simulations is dramatic (Table 8). When back-to-back storms are considered, reducing existing dunes to a +18 ft NAVD88 crest elevation resulted in wave and/or erosion damage at all transects with Existing Conditions peak elevations greater than +18 ft NAVD88. A minimum dune elevation greater than +18 ft NAVD88 and a minimum dune volume of 33 cy/LF are needed to provide protection in a storm equivalent to Hurricane Y.

Transect 268+68 between Inlet Road and 1st Bay Street is unlike any other location in the Cottage Line study area. At this location on a presently vacant lot (see Appendix A, page A-7), the first dune peak crests at approximately +22 ft NAVD88 and is thus at a similar elevation and in a similar line to the primary dune at adjacent transects. However, the sand does not slope down significantly behind this first dune peak. Rather, within approximately 30 feet landward of the first dune peak, a very high-crested and high-volume dune begins and peaks at +31 ft NAVD88. The SBEACH results shown in Figure 11 indicate that a dune crest elevation of +14 ft NAVD88 would result in overwash and wave runup flooding in Hurricane X and Hurricane Y. Lowering the dune to +18 ft NAVD88 (Figure 12) would increase flood risk between the seaward parcel line and the line of adjacent structures in Hurricane Y.

An additional caution is given regarding transect 268+68: Before any modifications are permitted to the dune crest height or volume, it will be important to confirm whether the landward penetration of wave runup would adversely affect adjacent properties to the left or right along the dune line (Figure 13). For example, wave runup penetrating to the seaward parcel line (as indicated in Figure 11 and Figure 12) may flow laterally behind the primary dune line on the eastern adjacent parcel. A similar situation could occur for dune modifications a few parcels to the west of transect 268+68. Specific proposed modification scenarios should be checked by a qualified coastal engineer, if such an application is made.

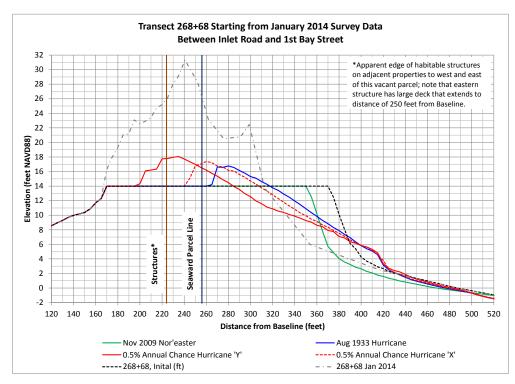


Figure 11: SBEACH results between Inlet Rd. and 1^{st} Bay St. for dune crest at +14 ft NAVD88, initialized from post-November 2009 Nor'easter profile

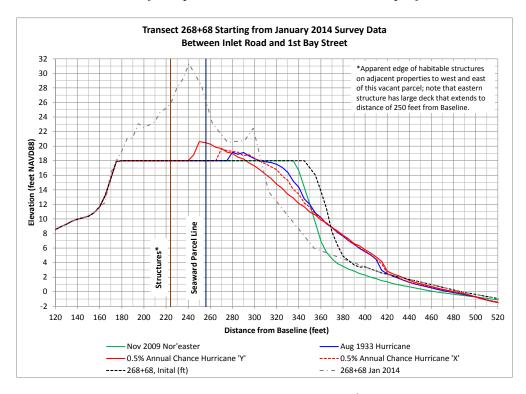


Figure 12: SBEACH results between Inlet Rd. and 1^{st} Bay St. for dune crest at +18 ft NAVD88, initialized from post-November 2009 Nor'easter profile

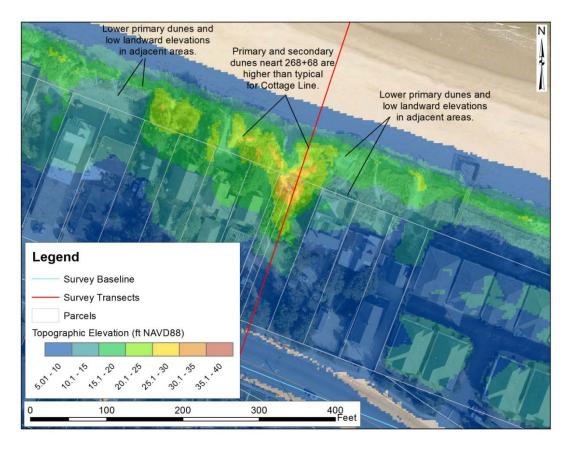


Figure 13: Dune elevations around transect 268+68 between Inlet Rd. and 1st Bay St.

Dune height remaining during the storm is as important as dune volume for mitigating inundation from storm surge and wave runup. The peak wave crests for the August 1933 hurricane approached +12 ft NAVD88 at the dune, and wave crests up to +14 ft NAVD88 were simulated for Hurricane Y. Peak wave runup elevation is typically several feet above the peak wave crest elevation as the largest waves break and run up the dune face. This should be considered when making decisions regarding dune crest elevation modifications.

As noted in the introduction to this report, NFIP regulations that govern floodplain management require that the City prohibit man-made alterations of sand dunes in its V zones which would increase potential flood damage. The study results presented in this section show that, for dune crest elevations less than or equal to +16 ft NAVD88, increased risk of damage from storm surge and/or wave runup flooding would be likely for all of the transects in Cottage Line for a 0.5% annual chance Hurricane Y event. Transects near Beaumont Street, Grove Avenue, Inlet Road, 3rd Bay Street, and transect 268+68 between Inlet Road and 1st Bay Street would experience increased risk of flooding damage with dune crest elevations less than or equal to +18 ft NAVD88 in Hurricane Y. Further, new preliminary FIRMs for the City of Norfolk are expected to be issued by FEMA by summer 2014, and these new FIRMs will include coastal flood hazard mapping based (partly) on the expected erosion of the existing conditions dunes. If the dunes are modified by reducing crest height or frontal dune reservoir volume, future FIRM updates may determine increased flood hazard risks, possibly resulting in increased flood insurance rates within the study area.

5. Effects of Future Relative Sea Level Rise

As noted above, a primary implication of sea level rise is that water levels with higher return periods today will be less extreme (more frequent) events in the future. For example, a repeat of the August 1933 hurricane in the future may produce a similar storm surge (rise in water level due solely to the storm), but the background tide level and thus the total water level will also be higher than if the storm occurred this year.

As sea level rises with respect to the land elevation (relative sea level rise, or RSLR), the beach and nearshore profile will tend to rise and shift landward. This effect is formulated in the so-called "Bruun Rule" originally formulated by Per Bruun in the 1960s and since refined and extended by many others. A summary of the original formulation and further developments of the calculation is given in the Coastal Engineering Manual (CEM, USACE 2002).

A series of SBEACH simulations was conducted for future conditions including both the higher storm water levels and upward / landward shifted beach and nearshore profile associated with RSLR. For the purposes of this illustration, a RSLR value of 1.2 feet was selected by taking the average of the NOAA Intermediate Low and NOAA Intermediate High RSLR curves for year 2043, approximately thirty years into the future. The same value of 1.2 feet results for the USACE Intermediate curve in year 2053. The curves are shown in Figure 14 below, as captured from the USACE online RLSR calculation tool¹.

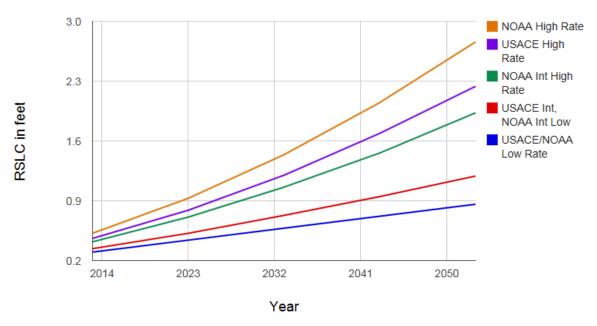


Figure 14: Future RSLR curves from USACE calculator

¹USACE online calculator at http://corpsclimate.us/ccaceslcurves.cfm

Using the RSLR value of 1.2 feet, a landward recession of 37 feet was computed using the modified Bruun Rule calculations in CEM Equations III-3-19 and III-3-33. The beach profiles input to SBEACH were shifted upward by 1.2 feet and landward by 37 feet. *Only the beach berm and nearshore profile were shifted*. The profile *was not changed* from the seaward toe of the dune (in each scenario) landward to the landward end of the profile, to reflect a man-made prevention of upward growth of the dune and landward migration of the dune onto Cottage Line residents' properties. Consequently, the dune and landward portions of the profile are identical but the beach berm width is narrower in the future RSLR scenarios, compared to the present-day scenarios.

The water level time series for each of the storms was also shifted upward by 1.2 feet, and the future RSLR SBEACH simulations were run and results evaluated. Table 9 through Table 12 summarize the dune reservoir volumes and the damage potential indicated for the SBEACH storm erosion simulations. The flood damage potential indicator acronyms are the same as discussed in Section 4.4 for present-day sea level simulations; each dune modification scenario was compared with the future RSLR Existing Conditions profile results. Each column indicates the associated modified (lowered) dune crest elevation and dune reservoir volumes. The dune reservoir volumes were calculated above a higher elevation of +9.2 feet NAVD88, since the 1% annual chance stillwater elevation will shift upward along with future RSLR. The "Present Day" columns are provided for reference and are identical to those provided in Table 5 through Table 8. Where "n/a" is given, the existing dune crest elevations were already lower than the column heading dune crest elevation, and the results are equivalent to the existing condition results.

While the future RSLR simulations showed additional erosion in all storms at all transects, they did not indicate increases in damage potential for the 2009 Nor'easter (Table 9). In the August 1933 hurricane, future RSLR simulations indicated increases in flood damage potential – beyond those expected for present-day sea level – for transects at Inlet Road and 3rd Bay Street with a modified dune crest of +18 ft NAVD88. All transects showed increased damage potential in the August 1933 hurricane for a crest elevation of +14 ft NAVD88. All transects except 268+68 east of Inlet Road showed increased damage potential in Hurricane X for lowering the existing crest elevation to +18 ft NAVD88 when considering future RSLR. In the Hurricane Y simulations at +18 ft NAVD88, increased damage potential resulted at the single remaining transect 268+68, and undermining due to erosion at the property line resulted at Inlet Road and 3rd Bay Street.

Table 9: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in 2009 Nor'easter with RSLR

Transect	Existing Crest		st at		st at	Crest at	
Location	Elevation	+18 ft		+16 ft		+14 ft	
Location	and Volume	NAV	D88	NAV	D88	NAVD88	
Relative Sea Level ² :		Present	Future	Present	Future	Present	Future
			1.2 ft	Day	1.2 ft	Day	1.2 ft
	ons ² column is with		Rise		Rise		Rise
future sea lev	el rise of 1.2 ft						
206+86	+14 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD
Beach View St.	9 cy/LF						9 cy/LF
218+66	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
Sturgis St.	16 cy/LF				16 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	16 cy/LF
229+85	+19 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
Beaumont St.	19 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	19 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	18 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	16 cy/LF
242+03	+20 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
Grove Ave.	27 cy/LF	33 cy/LF	27 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	29 cy/LF	22 cy/LF
254+54	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
E. of Cape View	11 cy/LF				11 cy/LF	13 cy/LF	10 cy/LF
263+22	+21 ft	NFID	NFID	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
Inlet Rd.	17 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	17 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	16 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	15 cy/LF
268+68	+22 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
Between Inlet Rd.	27 cy/LF	42 cy/LF	36 cy/LF	40 cy/LF	33 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	24 cy/LF
and 1st Bay St.			-	-			
274+53	+18 ft	n/a	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
1 st Bay St.	21 cy/LF		21 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	18 cy/LF
281+40	+20 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD
3 rd Bay St.	21 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	24 cy/LF	19 cy/LF	22 cy/LF	17 cy/LF

 $^{^{2}}$ Dune reservoir volume for future sea level rise scenarios were calculated using a higher stillwater level of (8.0+1.2) ft = +9.2 ft NAVD88.

Table 10: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in 1933 August Hurricane with RSLR

Transect	Existing Crest	Crest at		Crest at		Crest at	
Location	Elevation	+18 ft		+16 ft		+14 ft	
Location	and Volume	NAVD88		NAVD88		NAVD88	
Relative Sea Level ² :		Present	Future	Present	Future	Present	Future
		Day	1.2 ft	Day	1.2 ft	Day	1.2 ft
Existing Conditions ² column is with			Rise		Rise		Rise
future sea level rise of 1.2 ft							
206+86	+14 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	$IDFW^1$
Beach View St.	9 cy/LF						9 cy/LF
218+66	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	$IDFW^1$	$IDFW^1$
Sturgis St.	16 cy/LF				16 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	16 cy/LF
229+85	+19 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	IDFW	NIFD	IDFW
Beaumont St.	19 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	19 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	18 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	16 cy/LF
242+03	+20 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	IDFW
Grove Ave.	27 cy/LF	33 cy/LF	27 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	29 cy/LF	22 cy/LF
254+54	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	IDFW	$IDFW^1$
E. of Cape View	11 cy/LF				11 cy/LF	13 cy/LF	10 cy/LF
263+22	+21 ft	NFID	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW
Inlet Rd.	17 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	17 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	16 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	15 cy/LF
268+68	+22 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	IDFW
Between Inlet Rd.	27 cy/LF	42 cy/LF	36 cy/LF	40 cy/LF	33 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	24 cy/LF
and 1st Bay St.							
274+53	+18 ft	n/a	NIFD	NIFD	IDFW	NIFD	IDFW
1 st Bay St.	21 cy/LF		21 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	18 cy/LF
281+40	+20 ft	NIFD	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW
3 rd Bay St.	21 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	24 cy/LF	19 cy/LF	22 cy/LF	17 cy/LF

¹At these locations, the Existing Conditions dune was breached by this storm. The modified dune was similarly breached, but is considered an increase in flood risk as it constitutes a reduction in protection in this presently vulnerable situation.

²Dune reservoir volume for future sea level rise scenarios were calculated using a higher stillwater level of (8.0+1.2) ft = +9.2 ft NAVD88.

Table 11: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in Hurricane X (0.5% Annual Chance) with RSLR

Transect Location	Existing Crest Elevation and Volume	Crest at +18 ft NAVD88		Crest at +16 ft NAVD88		Crest at +14 ft NAVD88	
Relative Sea Level ² :		Present	Future	Present	Future	Present	Future
		Day	1.2 ft	Day	1.2 ft	Day	1.2 ft
Existing Conditions ² column is with			Rise		Rise		Rise
future sea level rise of 1.2 ft							
206+86	+14 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	$IDFW^1$
Beach View St.	9 cy/LF						9 cy/LF
218+66	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	$IDFW^1$	$IDFW^1$
Sturgis St.	16 cy/LF				16 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	16 cy/LF
229+85	+19 ft	NIFD	IDFW	NIFD	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW
Beaumont St.	19 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	19 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	18 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	16 cy/LF
242+03	+20 ft	NIFD	IDFW	NIFD	IDFW	NIFD	IDFW
Grove Ave.	27 cy/LF	33 cy/LF	27 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	29 cy/LF	22 cy/LF
254+54	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	IDEU	IDFW ¹
E. of Cape View	11 cy/LF				11 cy/LF	13 cy/LF	10 cy/LF
263+22	+21 ft	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDEU	IDFW	IDFW
Inlet Rd.	17 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	17 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	16 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	15 cy/LF
268+68	+22 ft	NIFD	NIFD	NIFD	IDFW	NIFD	IDFW
Between Inlet Rd.	27 cy/LF	42 cy/LF	36 cy/LF	40 cy/LF	33 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	24 cy/LF
and 1 st Bay St.		-	-			-	
274+53	+18 ft	n/a	NIFD	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDEU
1 st Bay St.	21 cy/LF		21 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	18 cy/LF
281+40	+20 ft	IDFW	$IDFW^1$	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDEU
3 rd Bay St.	21 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	24 cy/LF	19 cy/LF	22 cy/LF	17 cy/LF

¹At these locations, the Existing Conditions dune was breached by this storm. The modified dune was similarly breached, but is considered an increase in flood risk as it constitutes a reduction in protection in this presently vulnerable situation.

²Dune reservoir volume for future sea level rise scenarios were calculated using a higher stillwater level of (8.0+1.2) ft = +9.2 ft NAVD88.

Table 12: SBEACH Model Dune Erosion – Modified Dune in Hurricane Y (0.5% Annual Chance) with RSLR

Transect Location	Existing Crest Elevation and Volume	Crest at +18 ft NAVD88		Crest at +16 ft NAVD88		Crest at +14 ft NAVD88	
Relative Sea Level ² :		Present Day	Future 1.2 ft	Present Day	Future 1.2 ft	Present Day	Future 1.2 ft
Existing Conditions ² column is with			Rise		Rise		Rise
future sea lev	future sea level rise of 1.2 ft						1
206+86	+14 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	$IDFW^1$
Beach View St.	9 cy/LF						9 cy/LF
218+66	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	$IDFW^1$	$IDFW^1$
Sturgis St.	16 cy/LF				16 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	16 cy/LF
229+85	+19 ft	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW
Beaumont St.	19 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	19 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	18 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	16 cy/LF
242+03	+20 ft	NIFD	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDEU
Grove Ave.	27 cy/LF	33 cy/LF	27 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	29 cy/LF	22 cy/LF
254+54	+16 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	NIFD	IDEU	$IDFW^1$
E. of Cape View	11 cy/LF				11 cy/LF	13 cy/LF	10 cy/LF
263+22	+21 ft	IDFW	IDEU	IDEU	IDEU	IDEU	IDEU
Inlet Rd.	17 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	17 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	16 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	15 cy/LF
268+68	+22 ft	NIFD	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW	IDFW
Between Inlet Rd.	27 cy/LF	42 cy/LF	36 cy/LF	40 cy/LF	33 cy/LF	31 cy/LF	24 cy/LF
and 1 st Bay St.	-	-	•	•			-
274+53	+18 ft	n/a	NIFD	IDFW	IDEU	IDEU	IDEU
1 st Bay St.	21 cy/LF		21 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	20 cy/LF	23 cy/LF	18 cy/LF
281+40	+20 ft	IDFW	IDEU ¹	IDFW	IDEU ¹	IDEU	IDEU
3 rd Bay St.	21 cy/LF	25 cy/LF	21 cy/LF	24 cy/LF	19 cy/LF	22 cy/LF	17 cy/LF

¹At these locations, the Existing Conditions dune was breached by this storm. The modified dune was similarly breached, but is considered an increase in flood risk as it constitutes a reduction in protection in this presently vulnerable situation.

²Dune reservoir volume for future sea level rise scenarios were calculated using a higher stillwater level of (8.0+1.2) ft = +9.2 ft NAVD88.

6. Summary and Conclusions

Moffatt & Nichol was retained by the City of Norfolk to conduct coastal engineering analyses relative to a Dune Integrity Assessment along the Cottage Line area of Ocean View in Norfolk, Virginia. More than 20 property owners have requested permission to be able to modify the dunes fronting their properties. The City needs to understand the impacts that such modifications would be likely to have on the capacity of the dunes to resist and mitigate coastal storm damage.

The purpose of the dune integrity assessment study is to evaluate the capacity of the Cottage Line beach and dune system to mitigate damage from coastal storms including erosion, flooding, and wave action. The assessment is made both for present existing dune conditions and for a range of potential dune modifications that have been proposed by Cottage Line property owners.

The study focuses on whether dune modifications would increase potential flood damage. This is specifically important because the primary dunes along Ocean View are considered by FEMA and the City of Norfolk to be located within a Coastal High Hazard Area, denoted as Zone VE on the City's FIRM. NFIP regulations outlined in 44 CFR Part 60.3(e)(7) state that the community (i.e. the City) must "prohibit man-made alterations of sand dunes and mangrove stands within Zones V1-30, VE, and V on the community's FIRM which would increase potential flood damage."

At the survey transects evaluated in this study, the existing Cottage Line dunes provide effective mitigation of storm surge and wave action for a majority of storms that have historically impacted Norfolk. Very intense storms – such as a recurrence of the historical August 1933 hurricane or a 0.5% annual chance (200-year return period) storm – would overwash or breach the dune at some locations. This would allow storm surge and wave runup to impact the properties behind the dunes.

The combination of sufficient dune height and dune volume acting together provides consistent mitigation of damage from coastal storm surges and waves. SBEACH model simulations for a range of dune height and volume modifications lead to the following conclusions:

- 1. For present-day sea level, reducing the dune crest elevation to +18 ft NAVD88 would result in increased risk of flood damage from wave impacts in back-to-back storms; and
- 2. A dune volume of 27 to 33 cy/LF computed above +8 ft NAVD88 and seaward of the seaward property parcel line is required to consistently avoid increasing coastal flood damage potential in the study area in present-day sea level conditions.
- 3. Dune crest elevations greater than +18 ft NAVD88, with associated additional dune reservoir volumes above +8 ft NAVD88, would be required to avoid increasing coastal flood damage potential in higher relative sea levels expected to occur over the next few decades.

Any modifications to the dune faces or crest should include prompt replanting of the resulting bare sand areas according to a professionally-designed vegetation plan. Even when the dunes are vegetated (or modified and re-vegetated), the dunes are and will continue to be subject to change over time as coastal processes and human activities occur. The dunes may be "dynamically stable," oscillating around a long-term average height and volume condition. As with any other coastal flood mitigation infrastructure, it is wise to allow for this variability in setting design elevations for dunes. Engineers and planners speak of this as providing "freeboard," for example an additional 1 foot to 2 feet on top of the minimum required elevation.

Dune modification proposals that include lowering the dune crest elevation then placing the removed volume on the seaward face of the dune (at lower elevations) would not necessarily provide protection equivalent to the existing conditions. The ultimate extent of erosion damage experienced by a dune in a storm is generally considered to depend on the volume of sand in the dune above the storm's stillwater elevation. Sand removed from the top of the dune and placed below +8 feet NAVD88 would not be as effective in providing storm damage protection as the sand already in the upper levels of the dune. Additionally, if modifications are done over short stretched (such as a typical property parcel width), the sand placed on the seaward dune face is subject to redistribution by natural processes to adjacent properties and upward or downward on the dune face. This would result in a reduction of the dune volume above +8 feet NAVD88 available at that location.

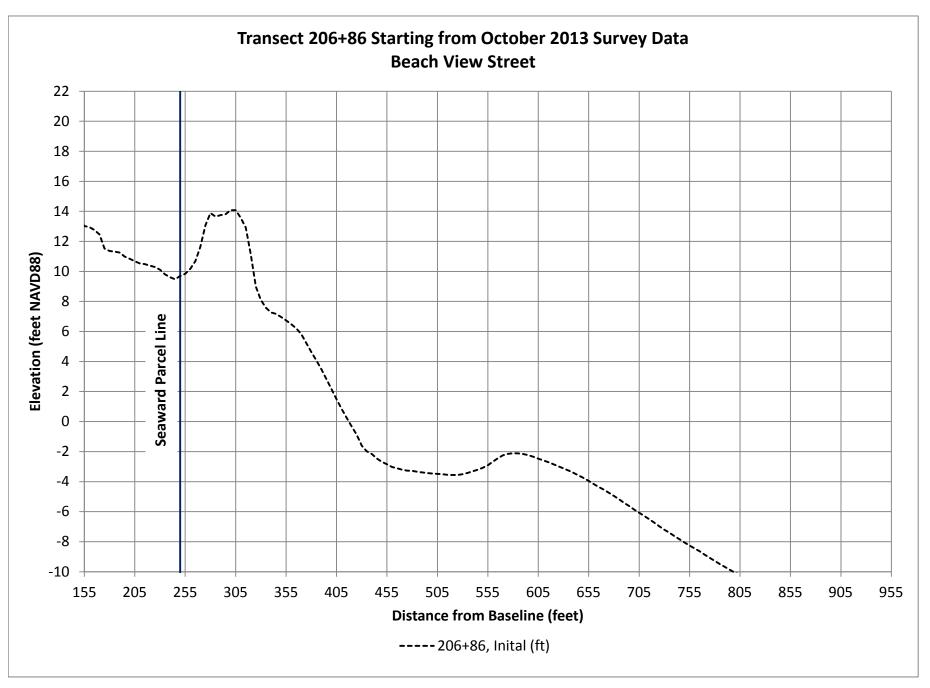
This coastal engineering study is only one component of the coordination necessary in evaluating the residents' proposed dune modifications. It is recommended that the City coordinate with federal agencies such as FEMA and USACE, along with relevant Virginia agencies, to discuss implications relative to floodplain management, flood insurance rates, federal hazard mitigation project assistance, and State dune management regulations.

7. References

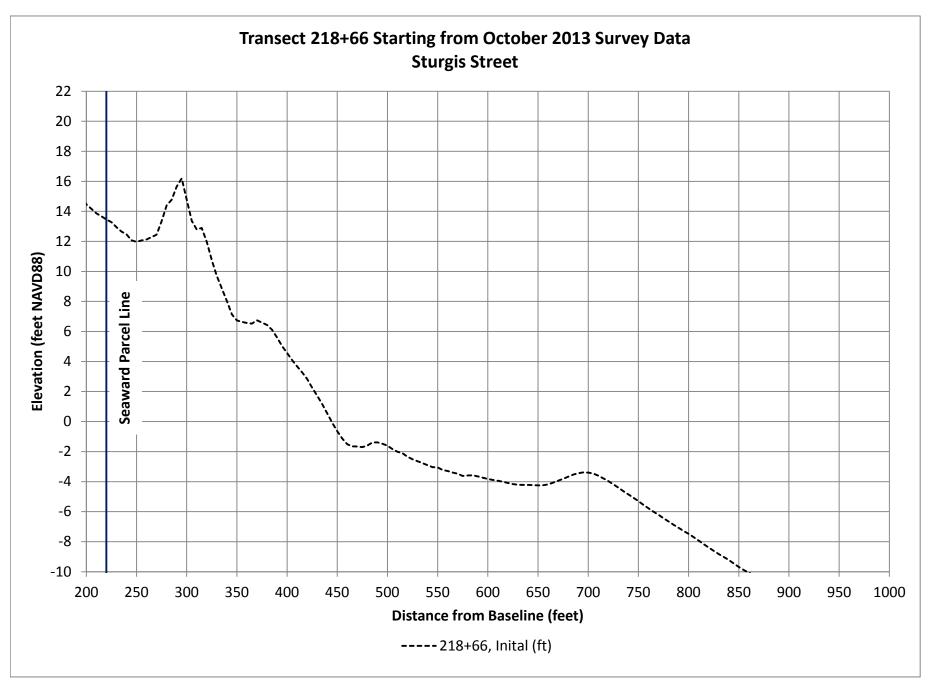
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Appendix A: Existing Condition Beach and Dune Profiles

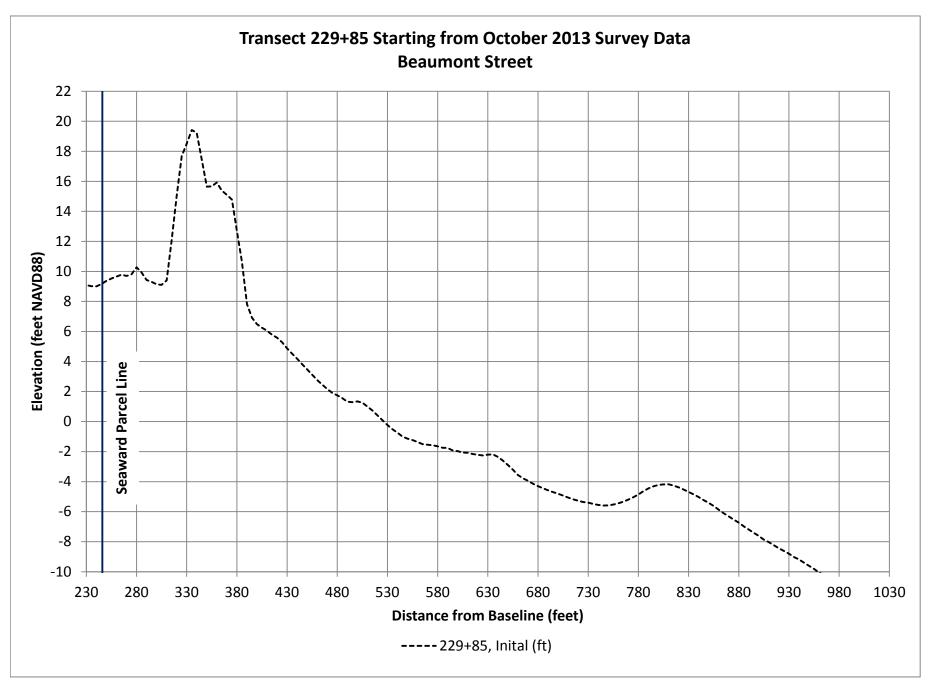




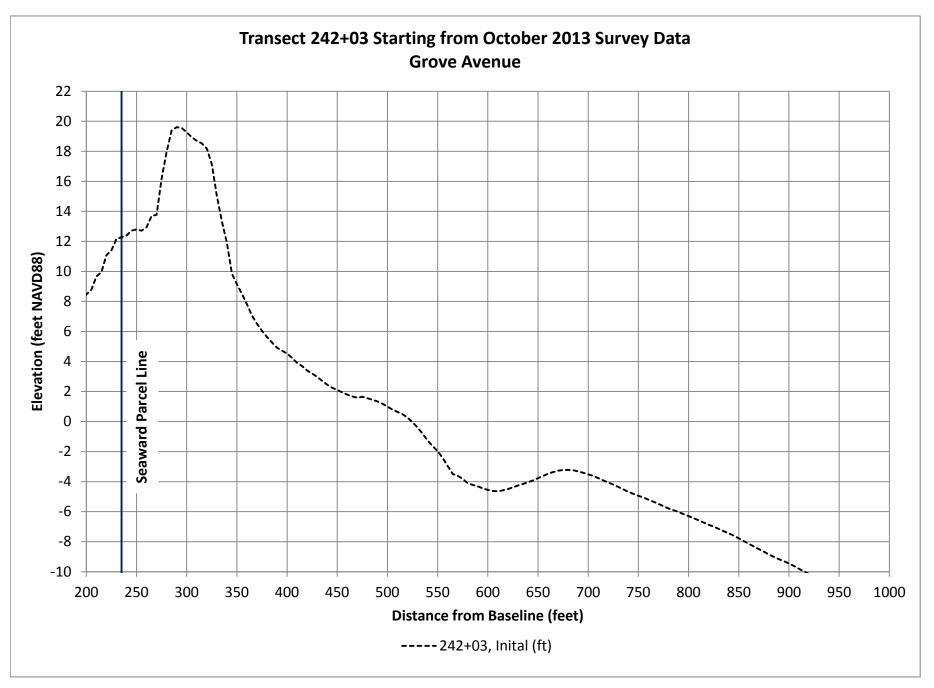




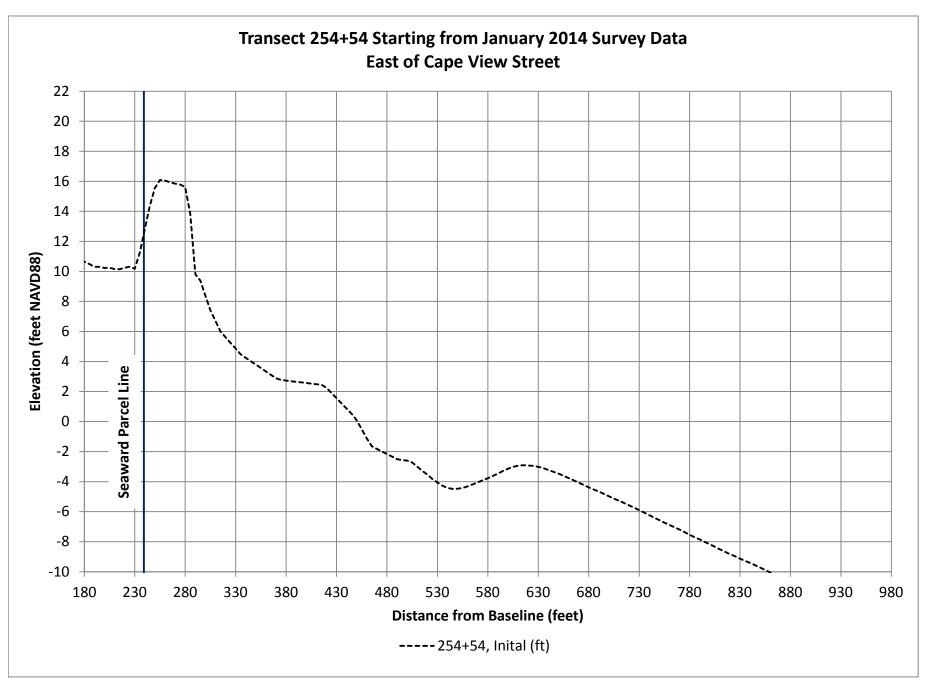




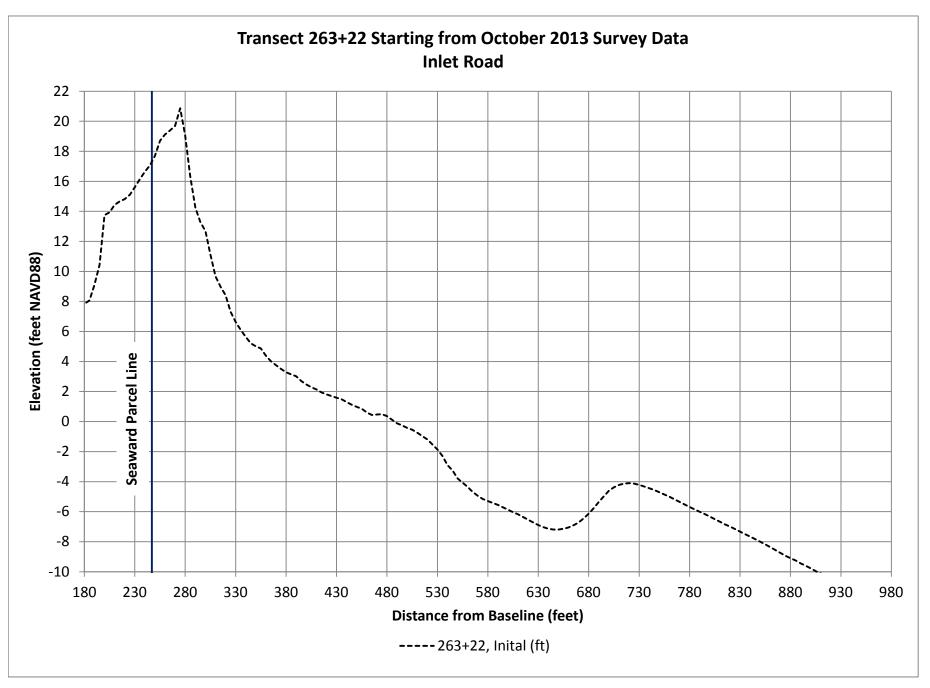




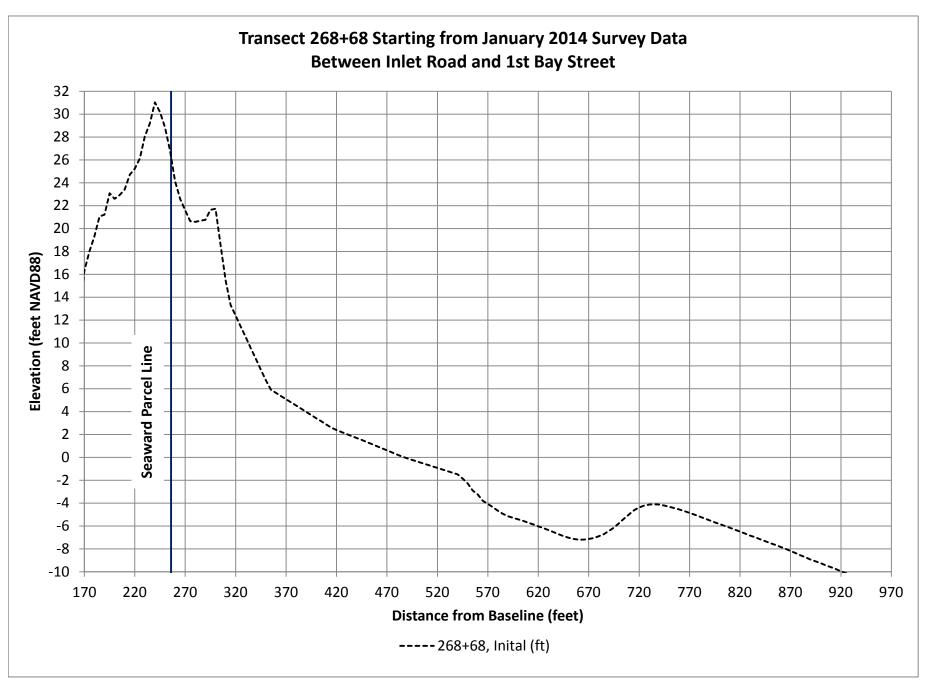




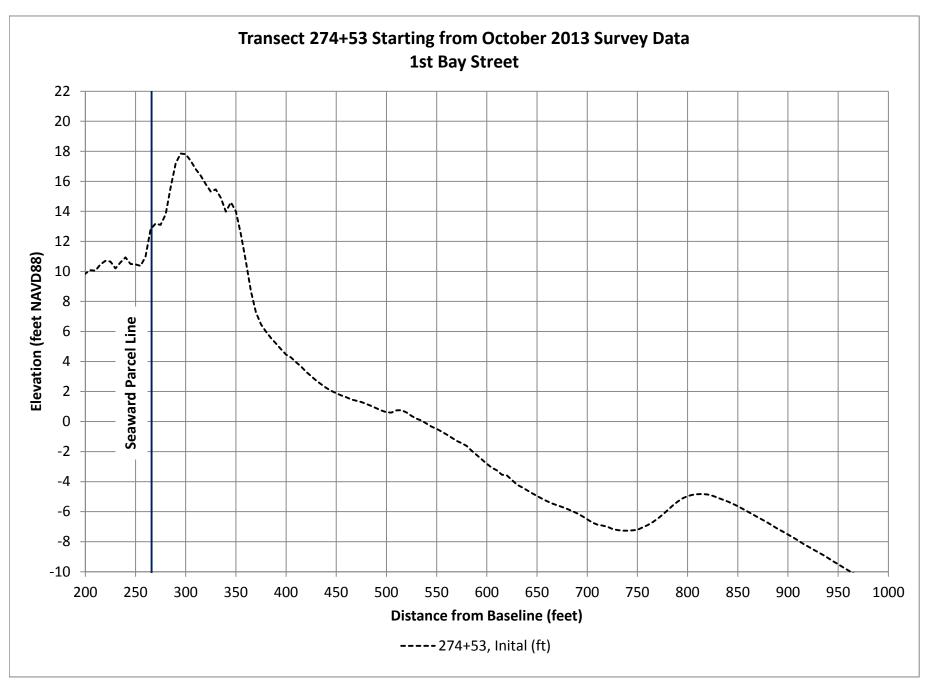




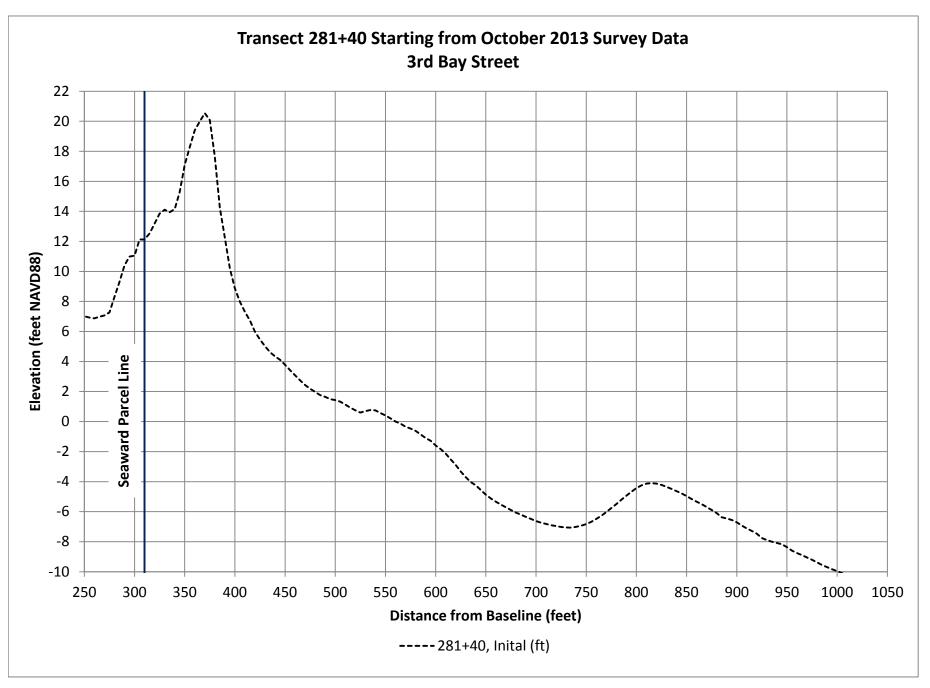




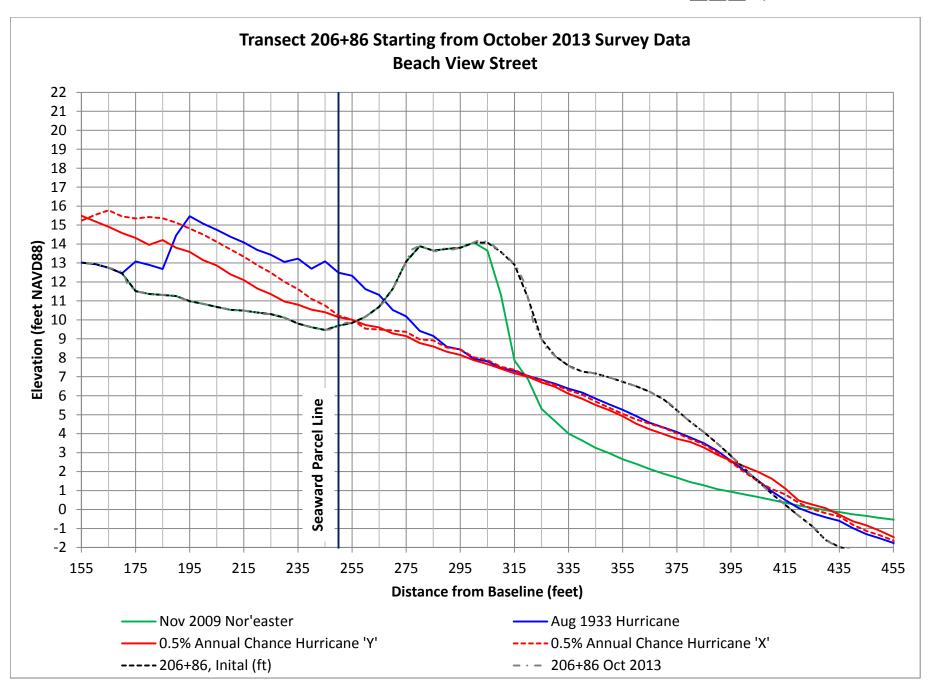


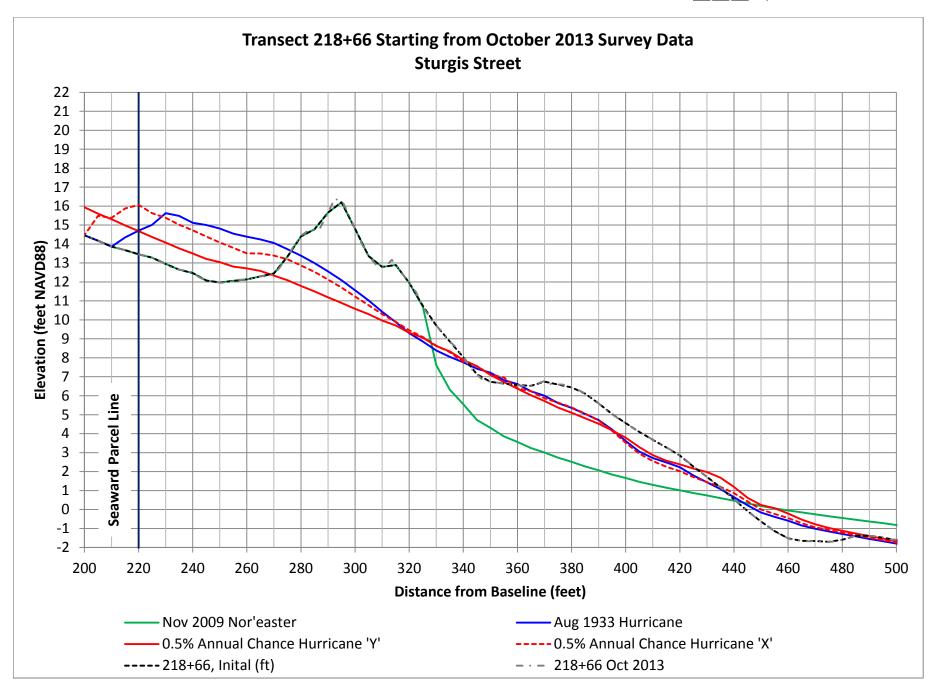


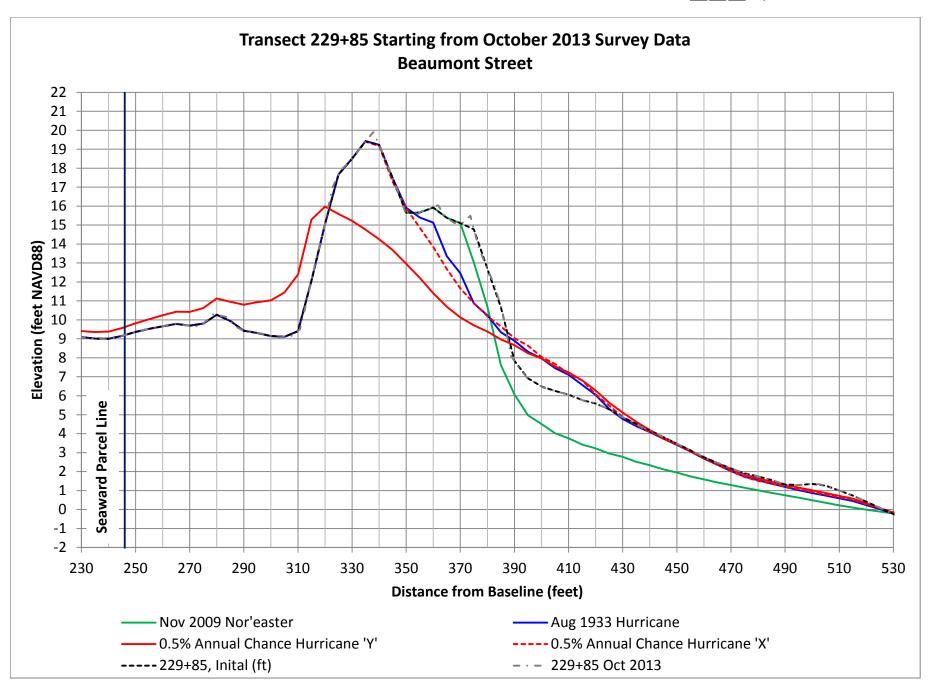


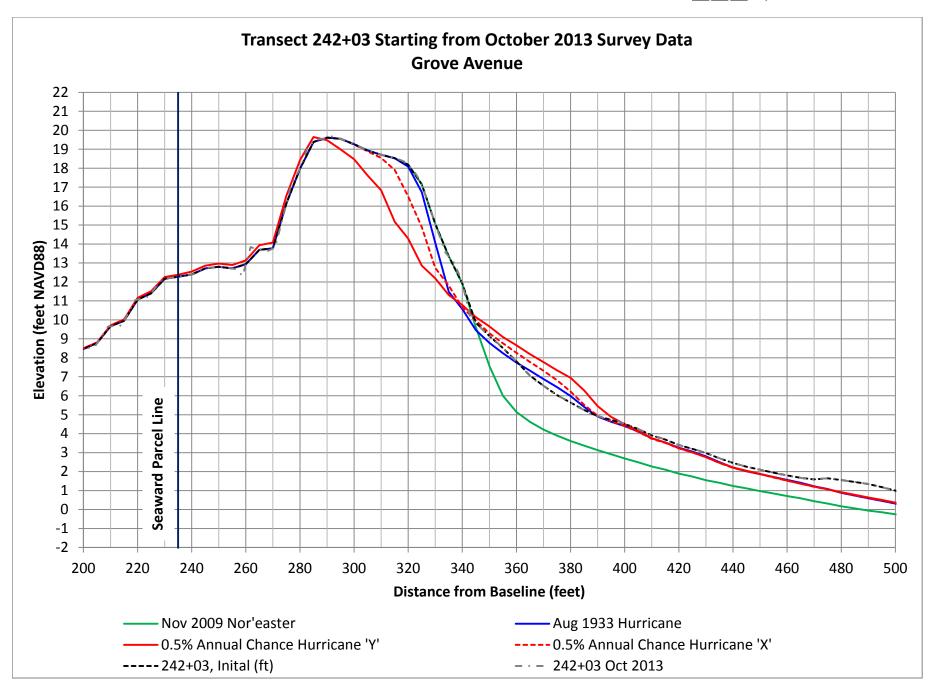


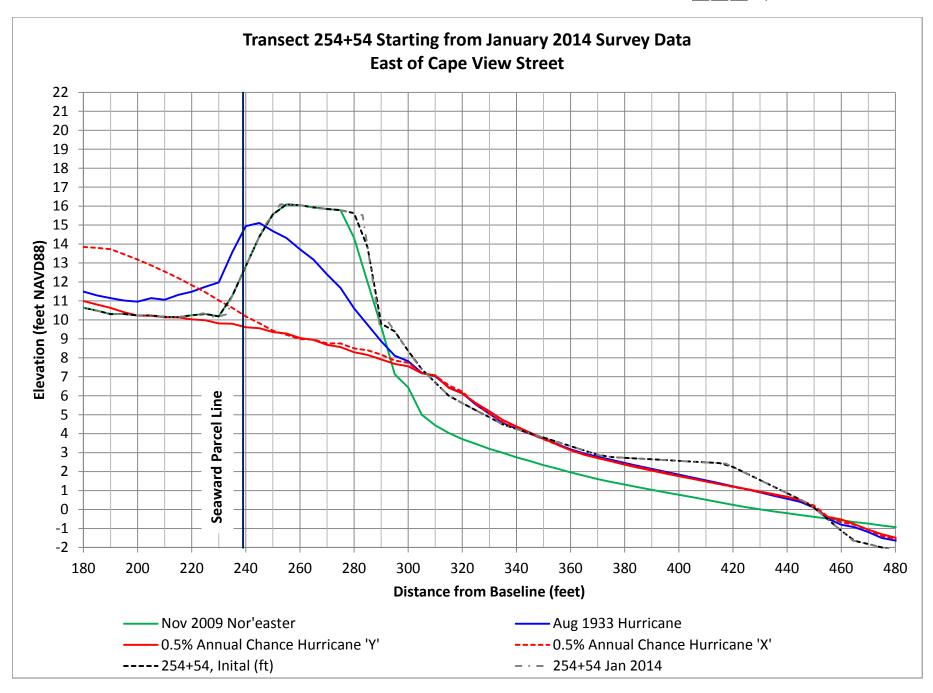
Appendix B: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, Existing Conditions

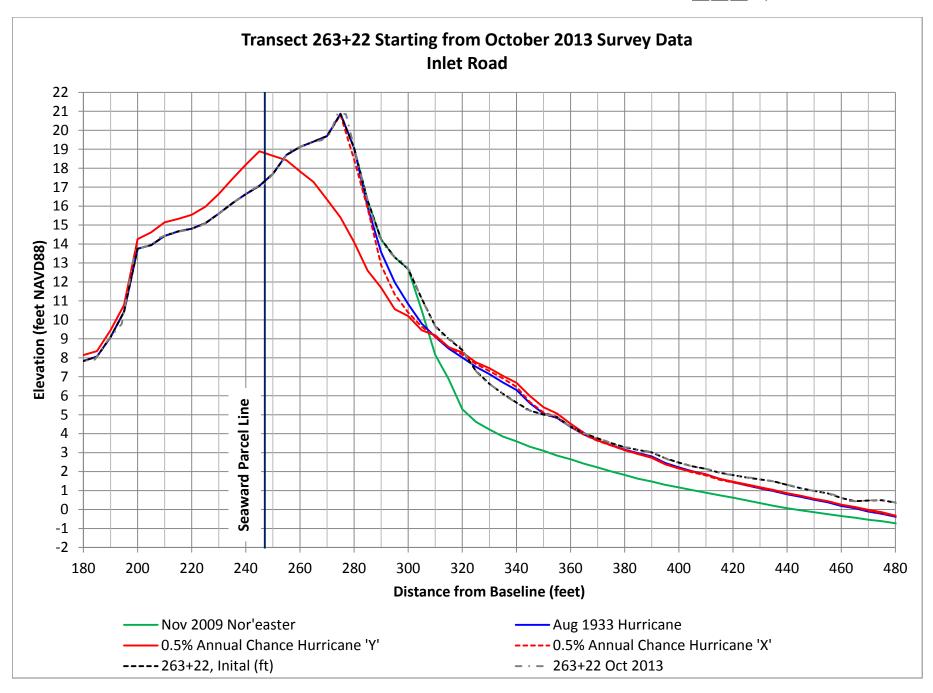




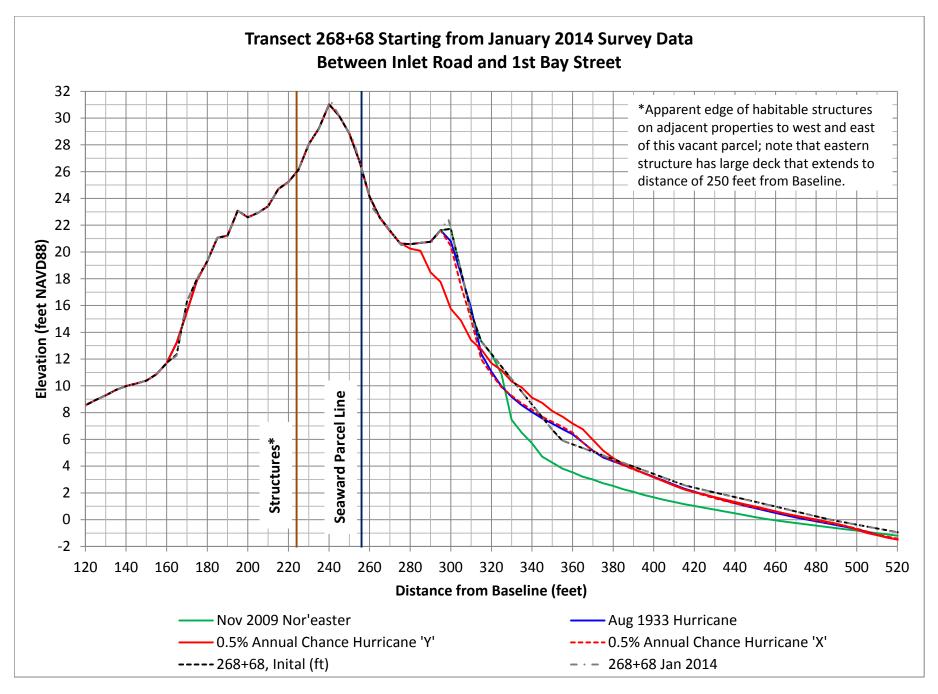


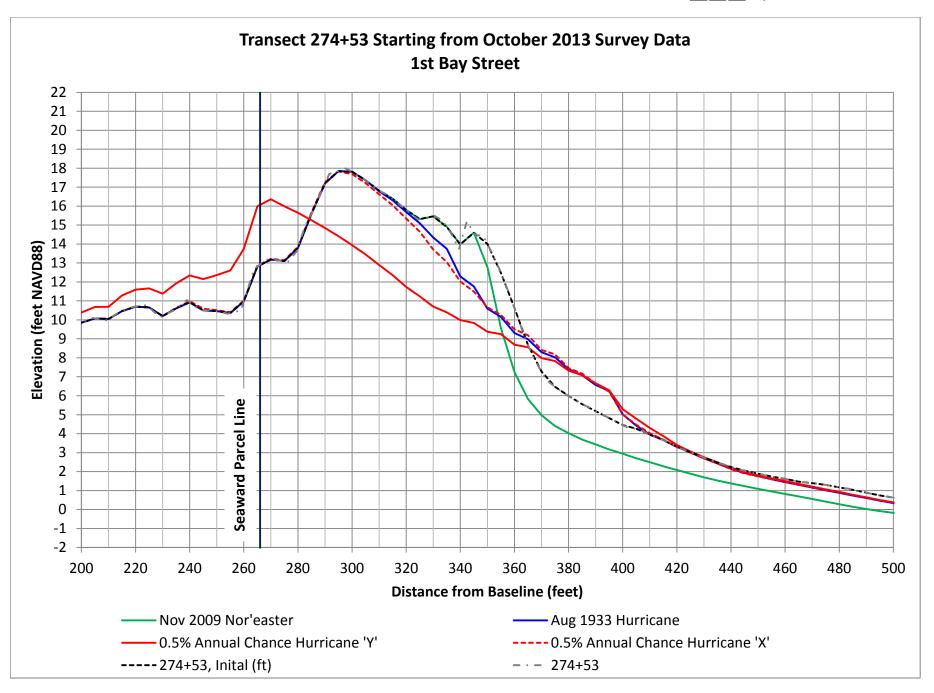


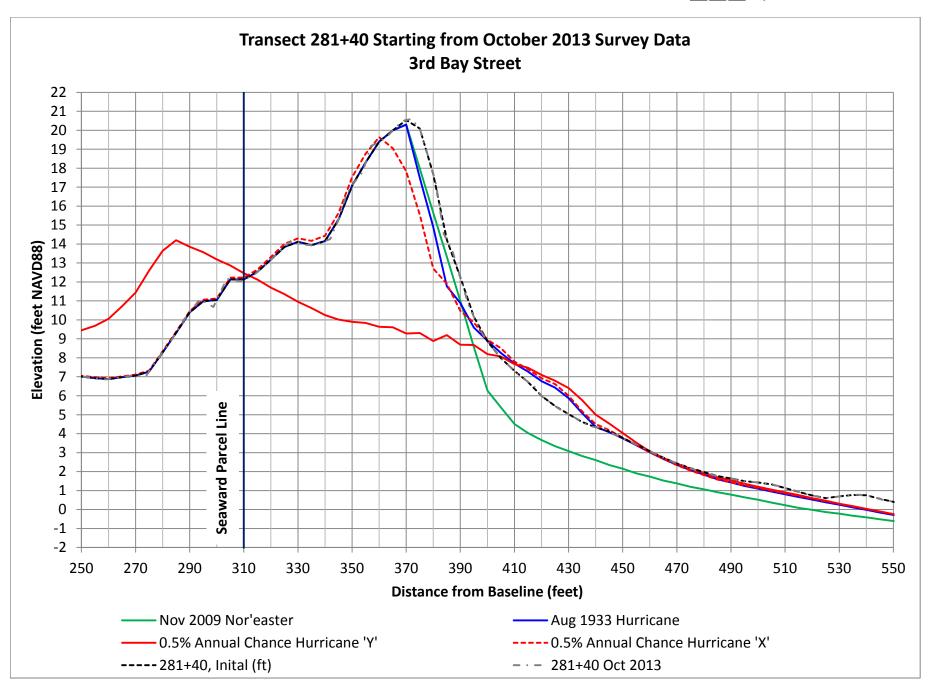




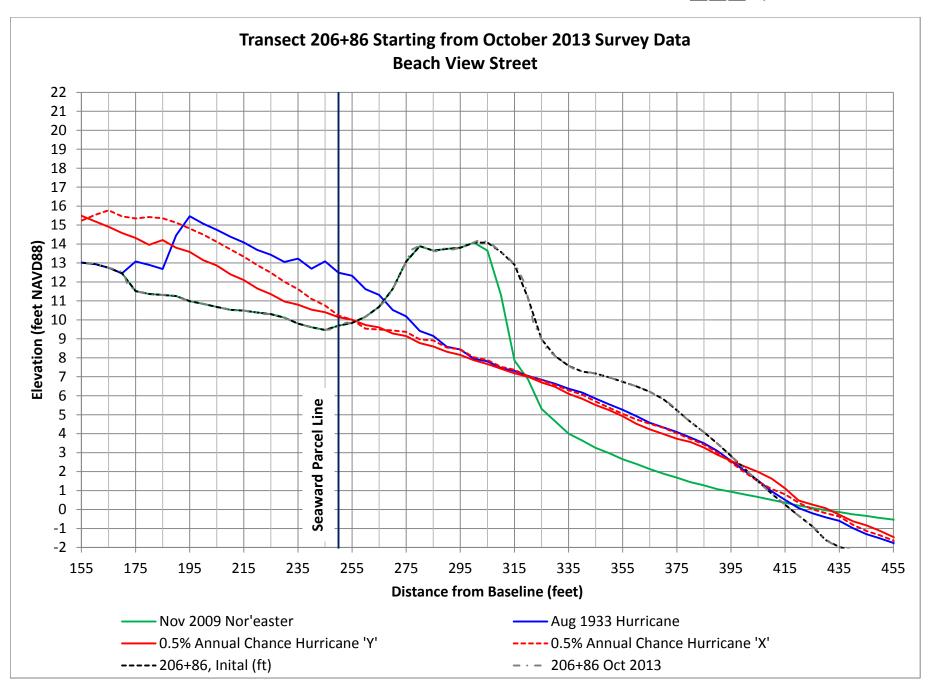


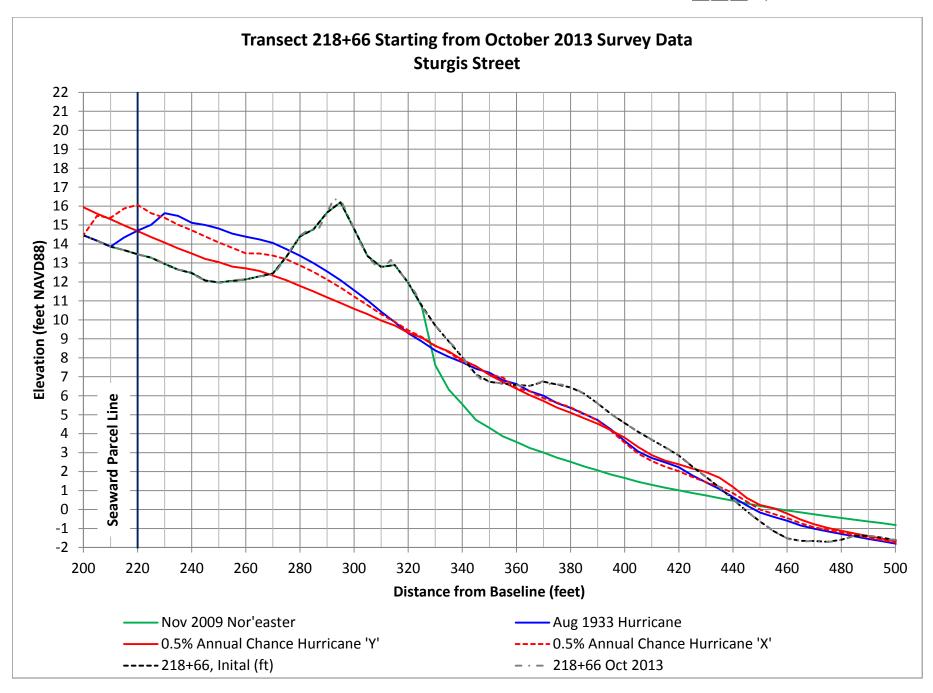


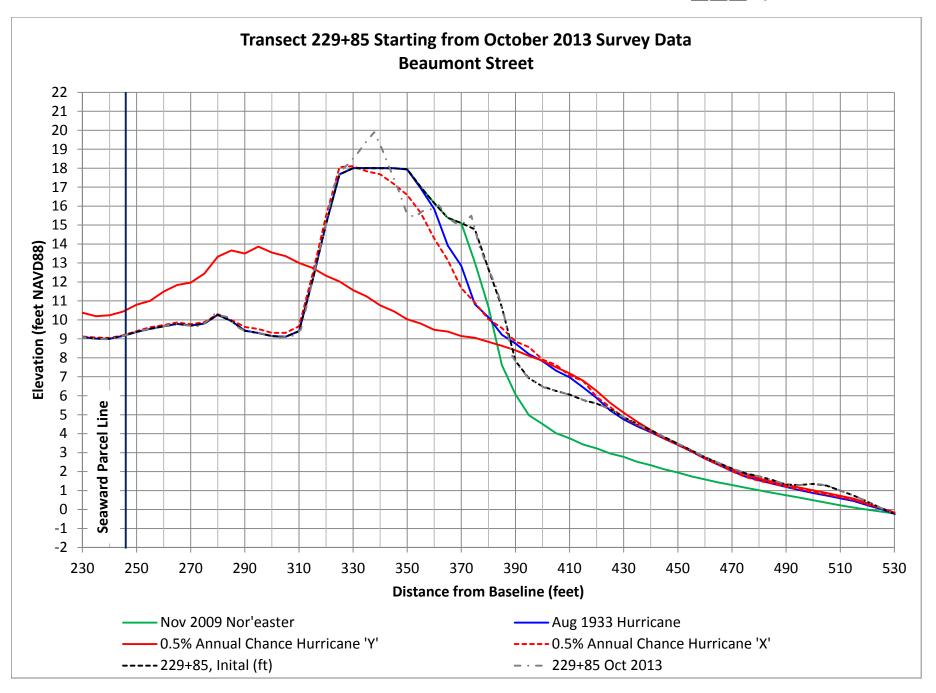


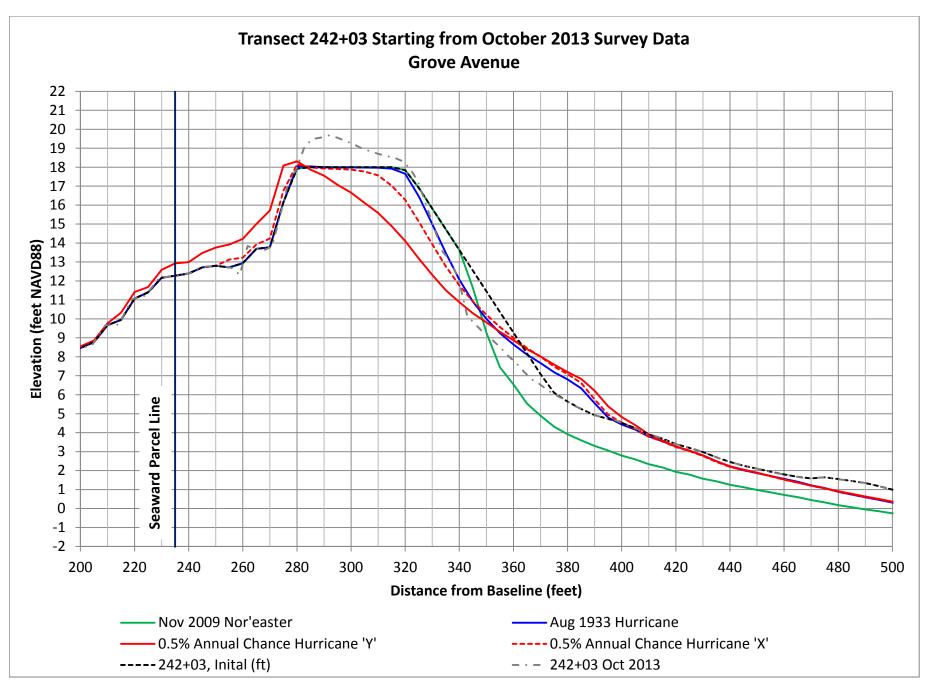


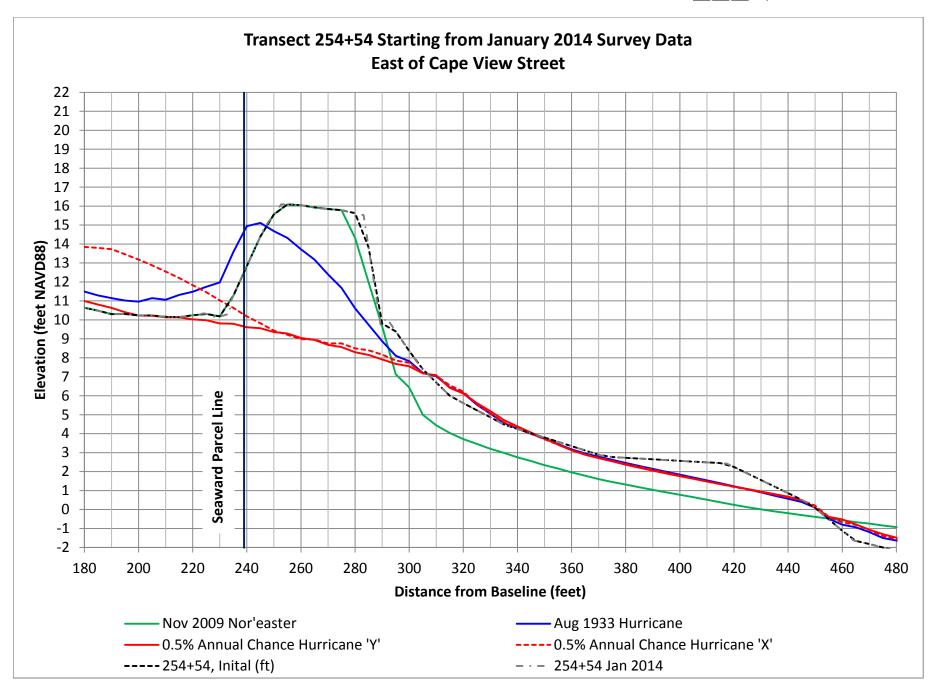
Appendix C: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +18 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation

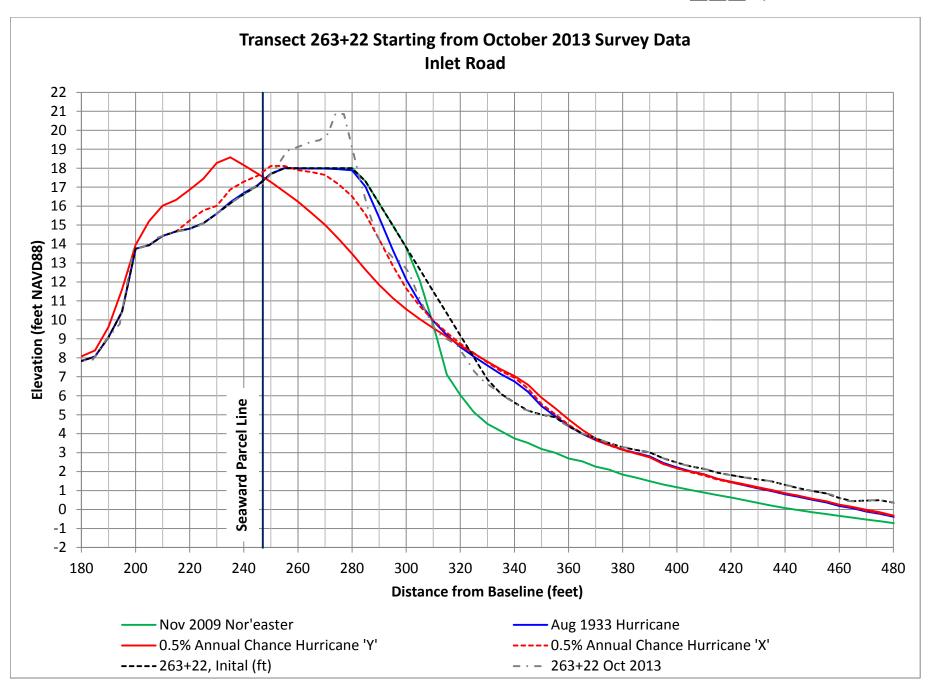


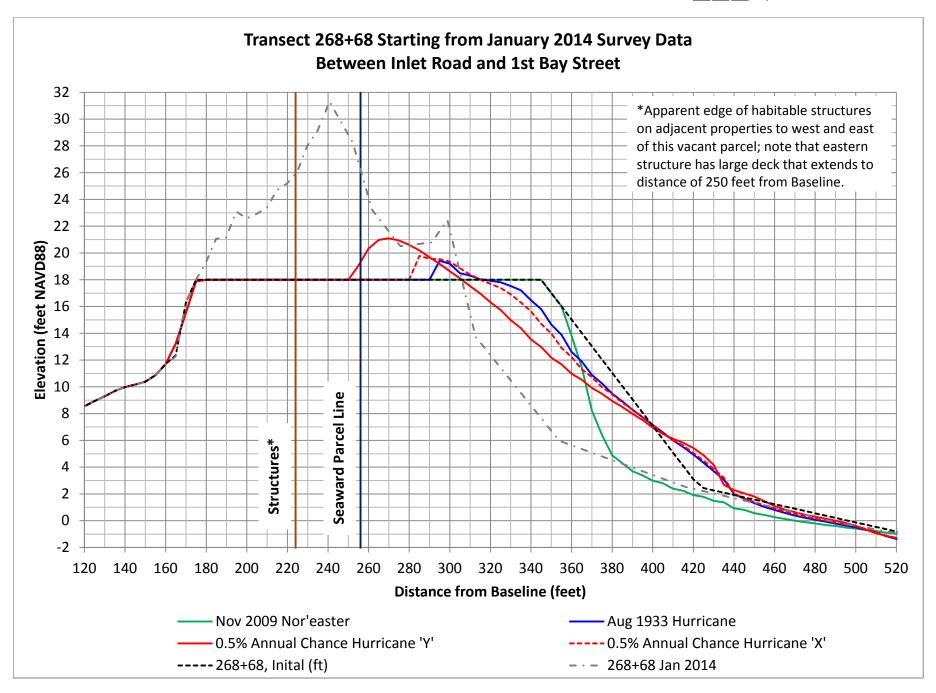


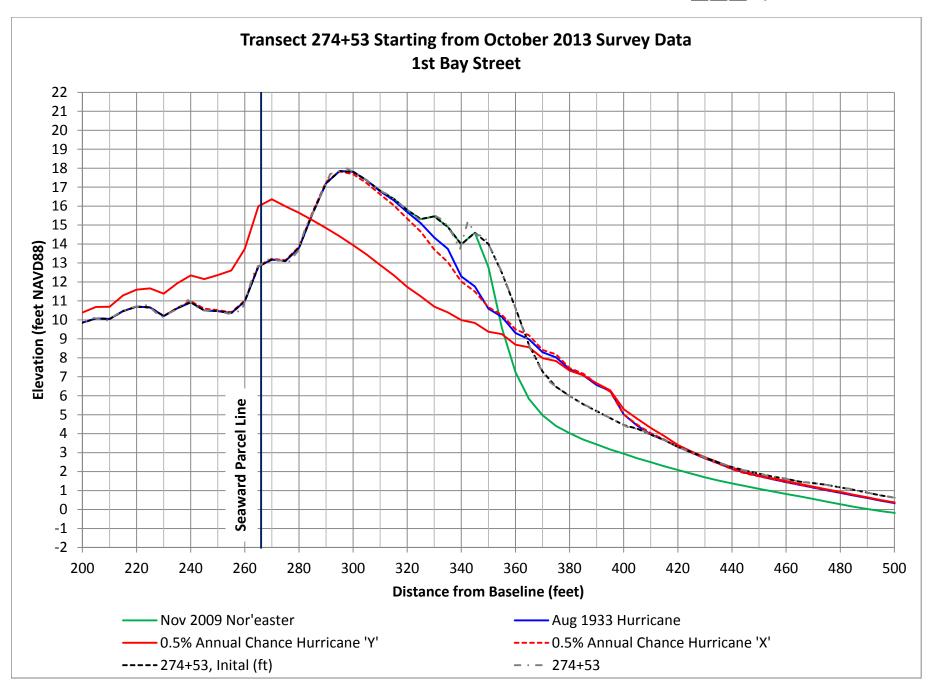


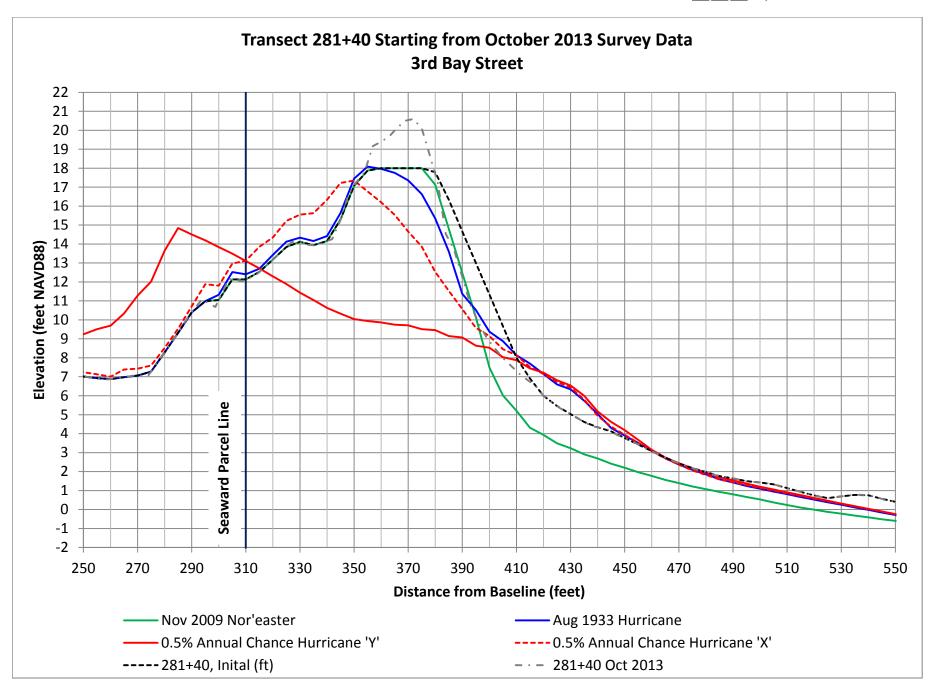




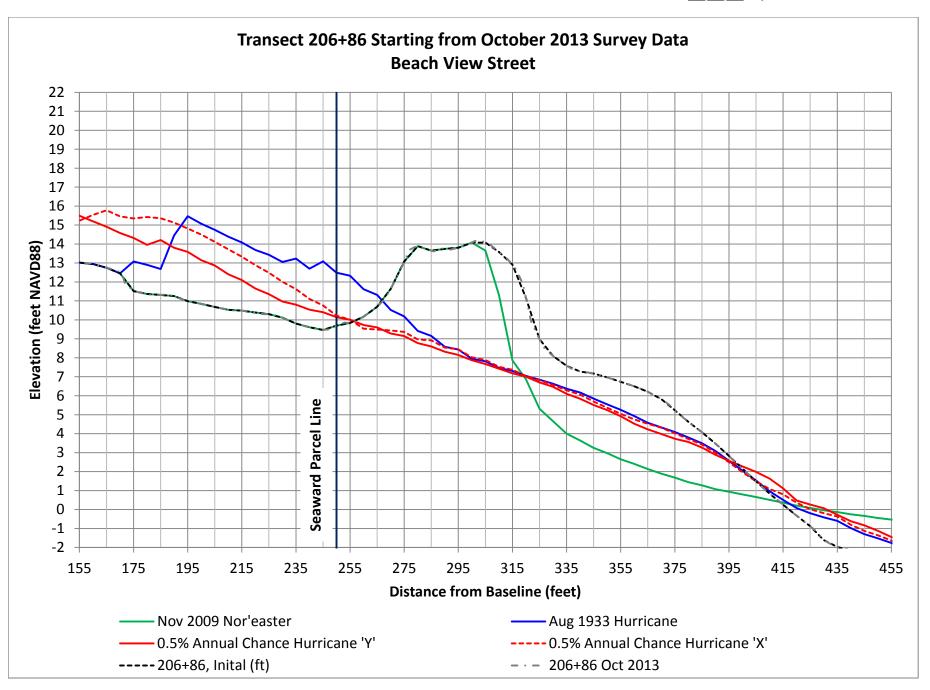


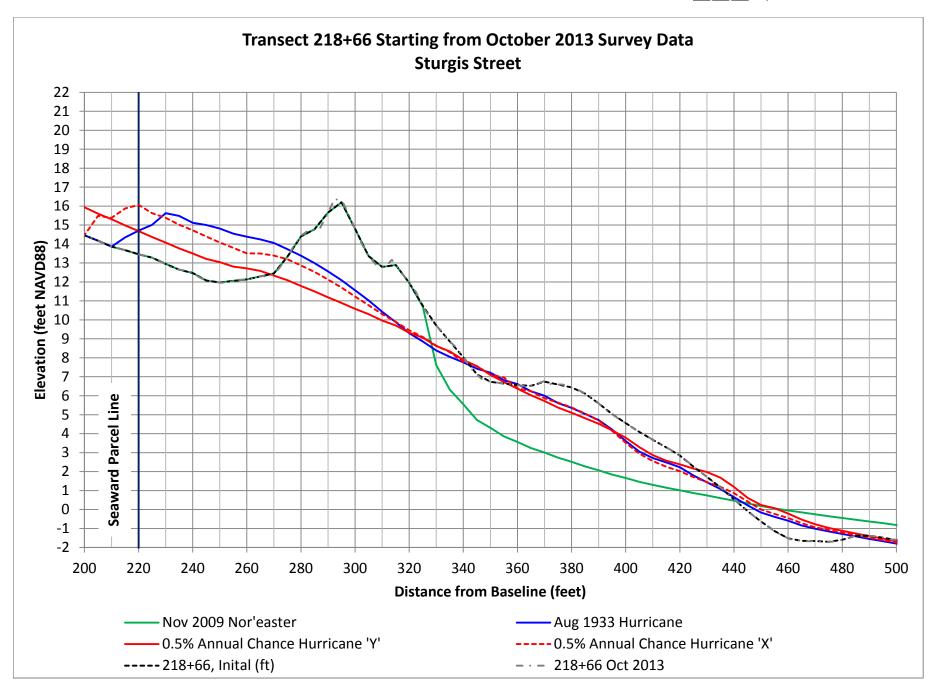


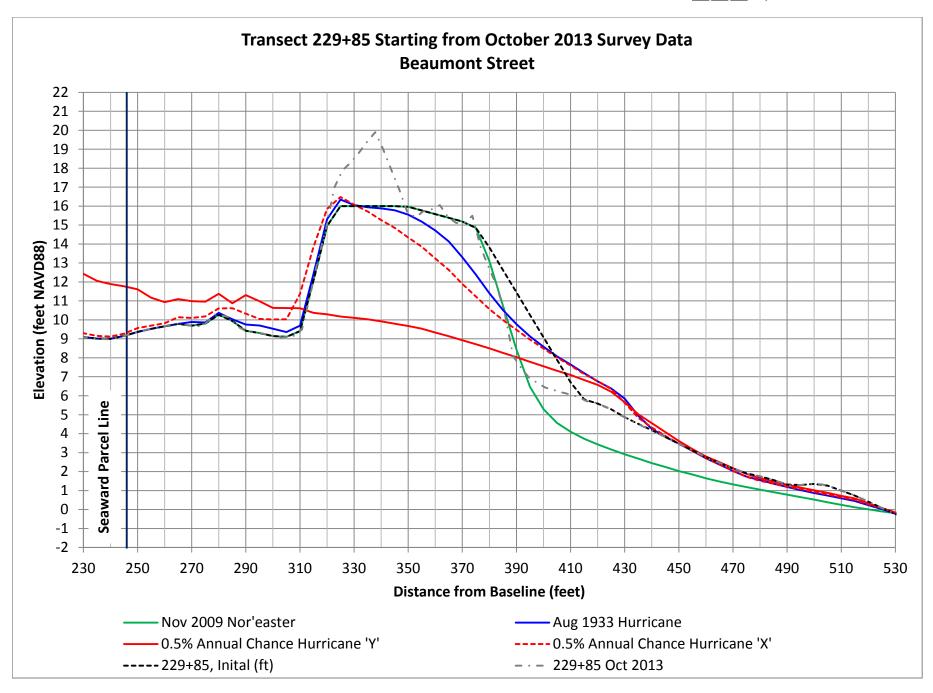


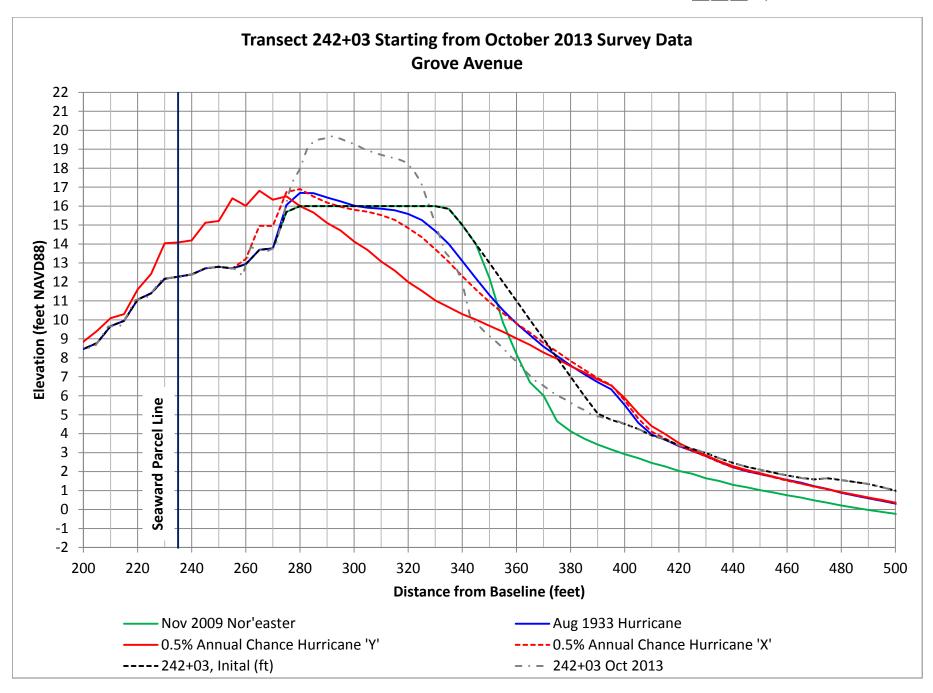


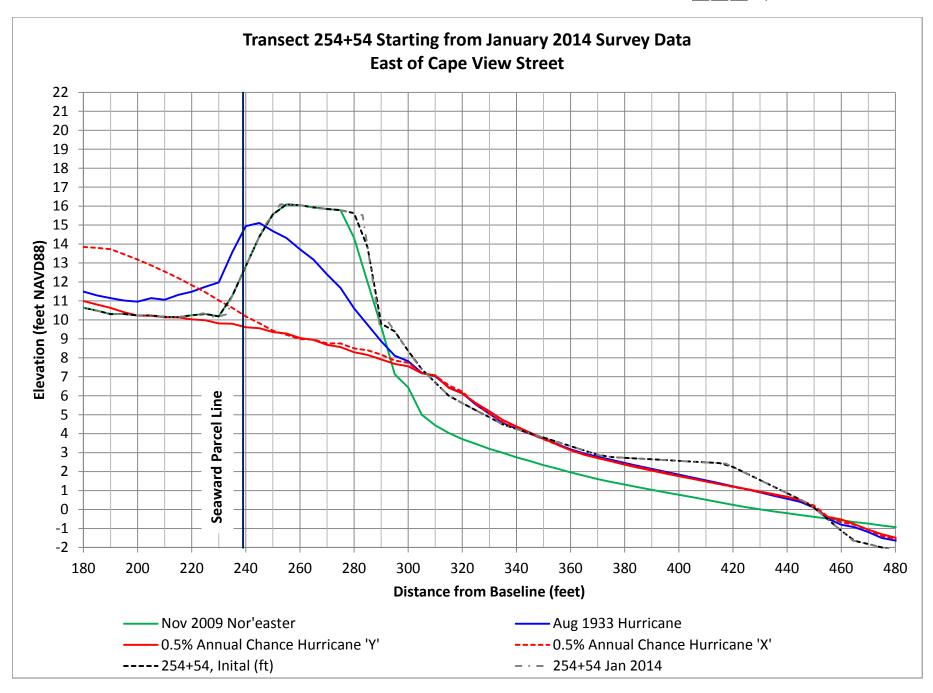
Appendix D: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +16 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation

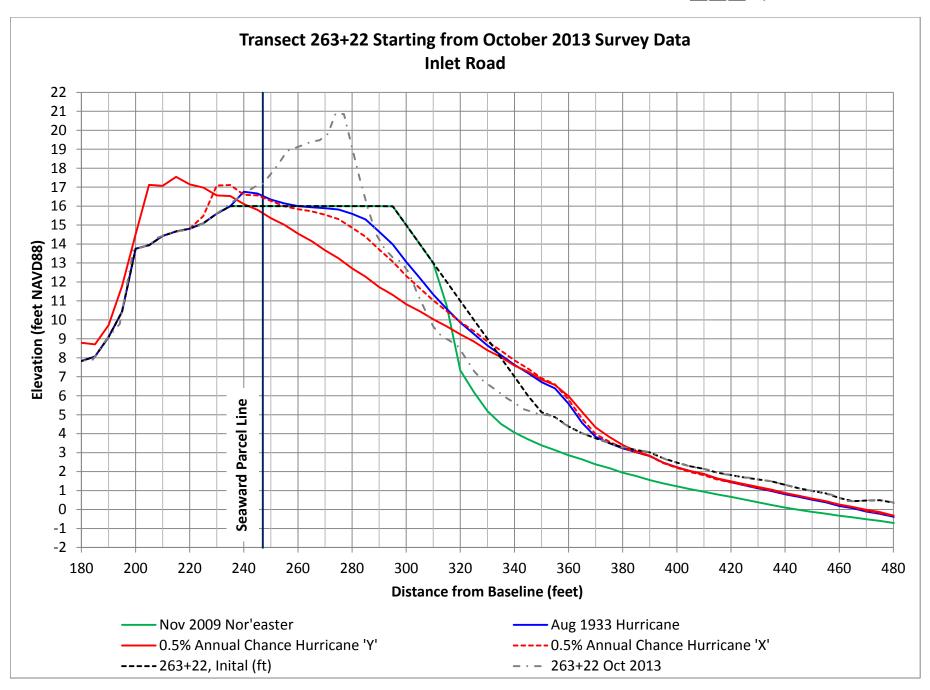


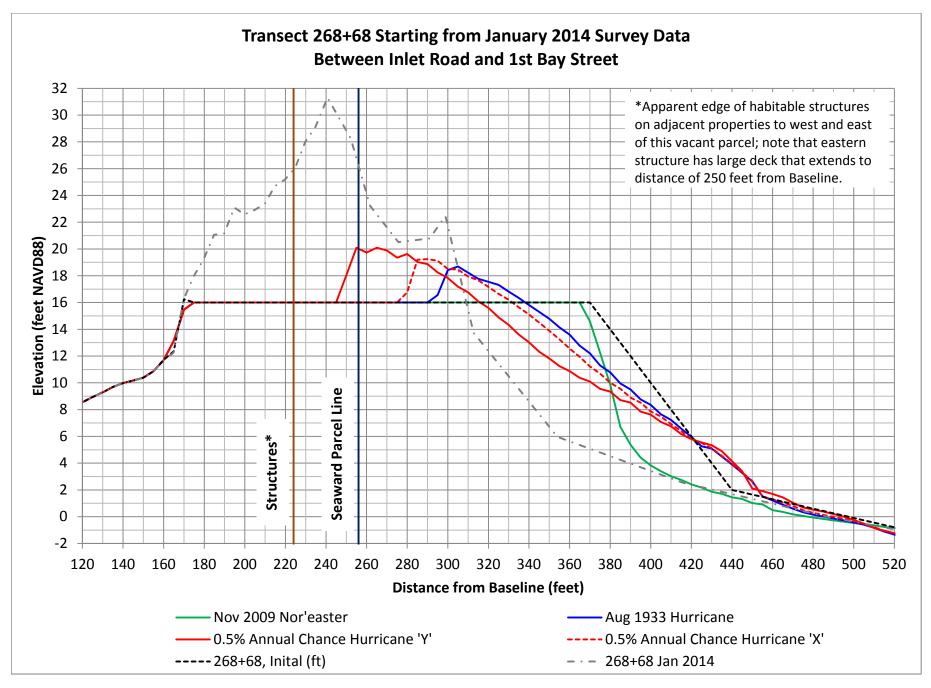


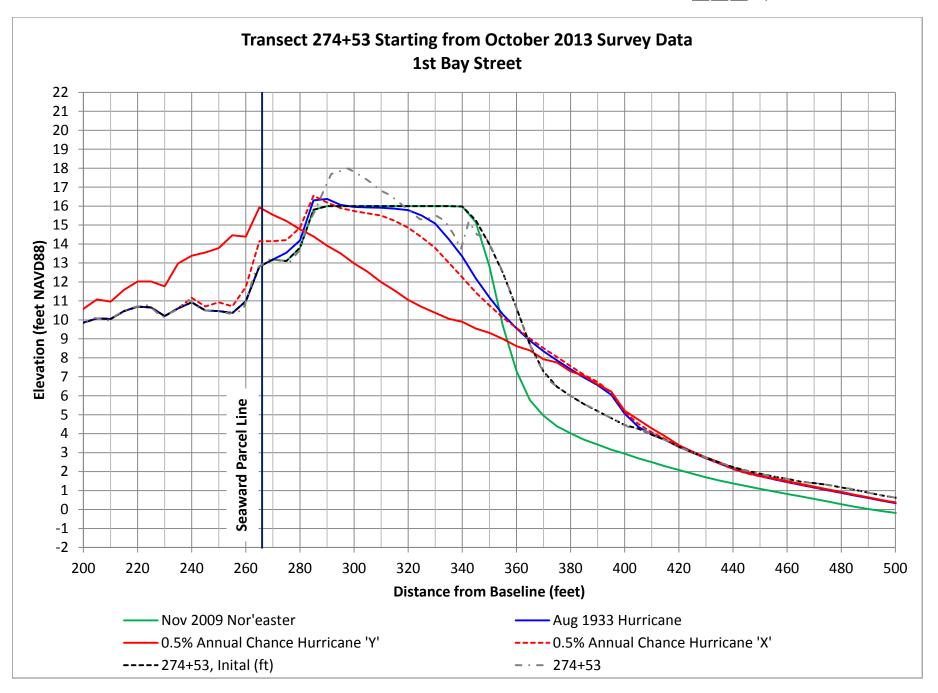


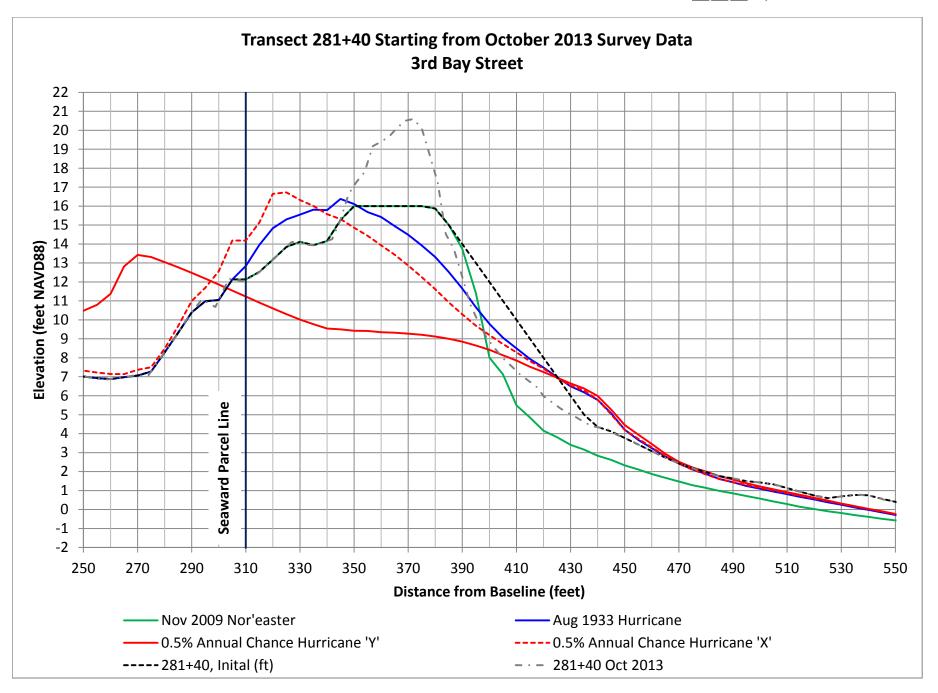




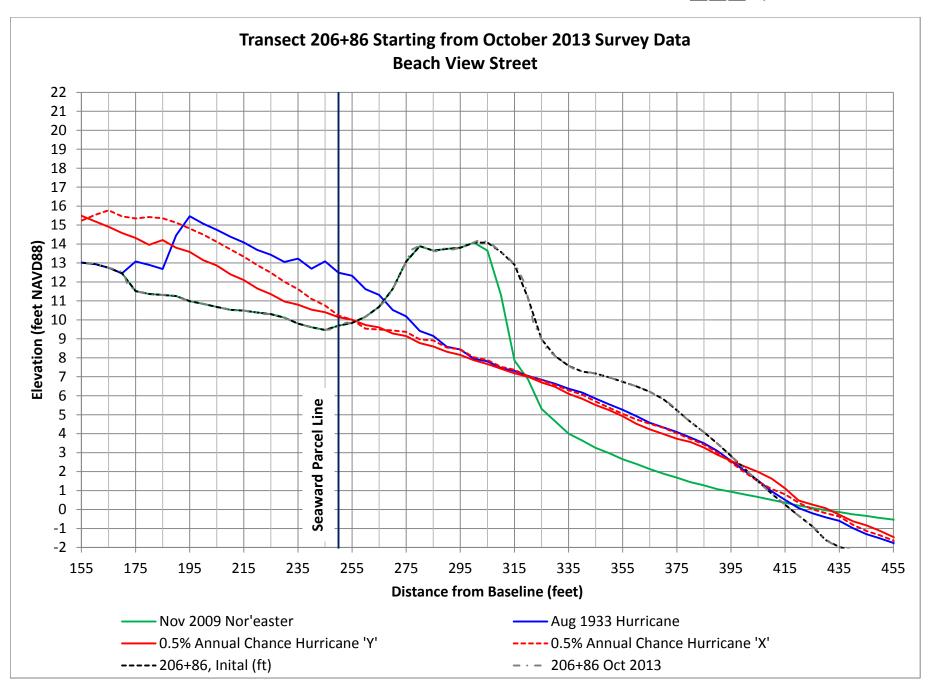


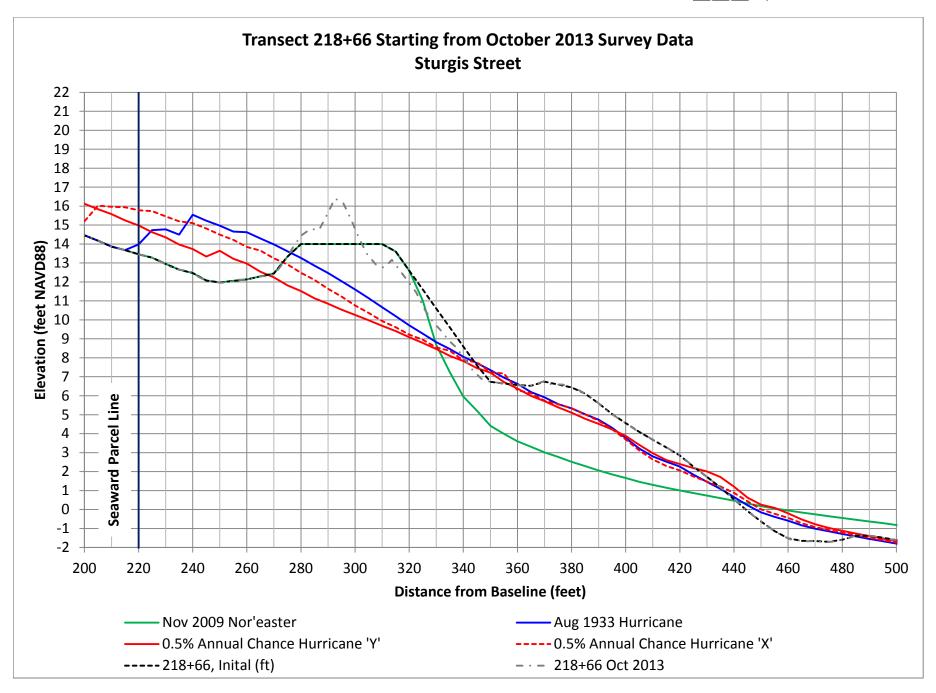


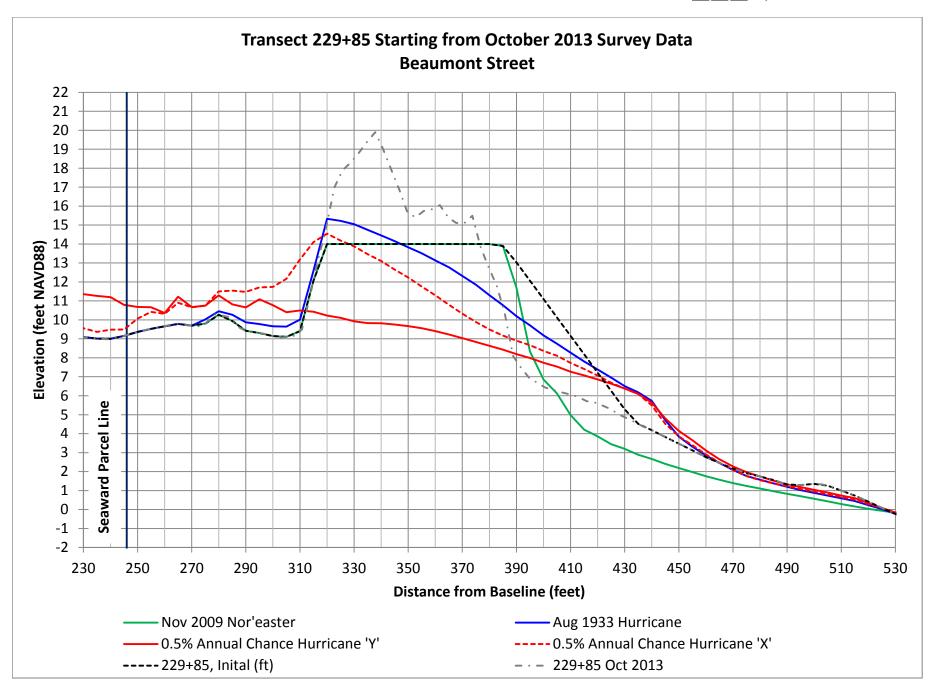


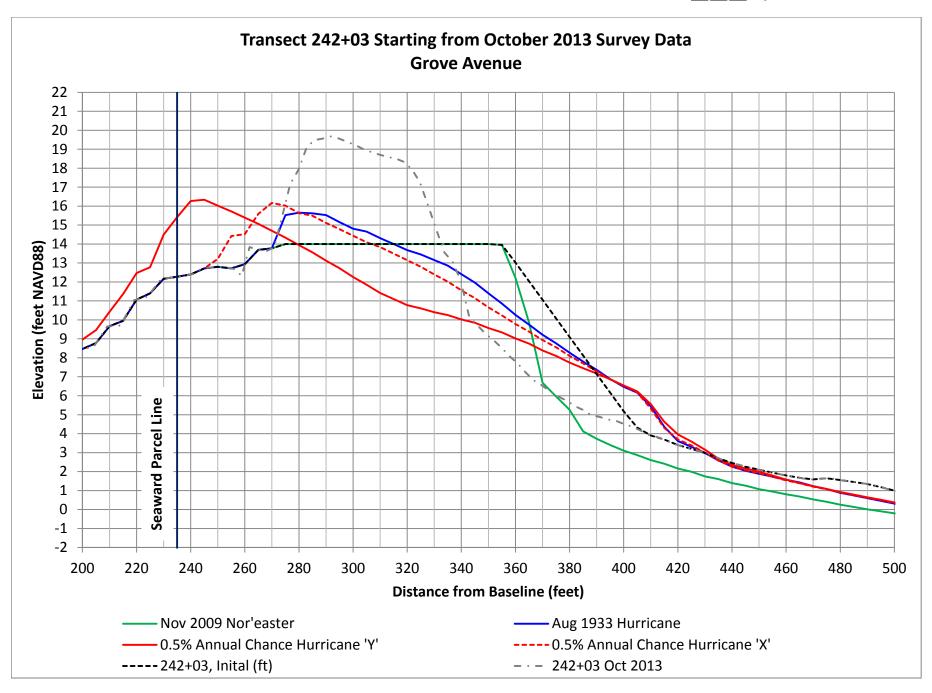


Appendix E: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +14 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation

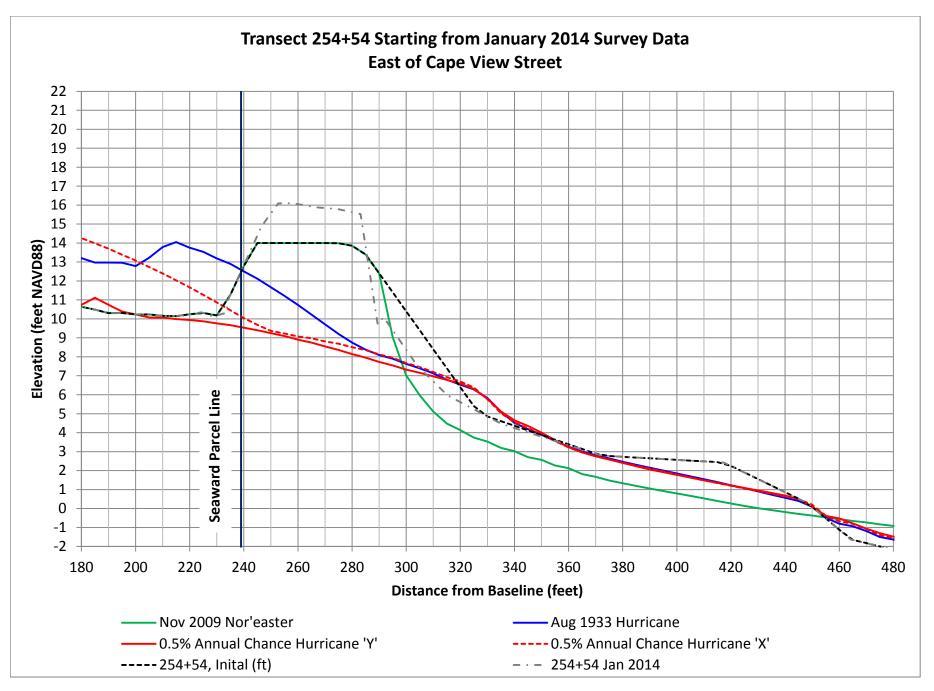


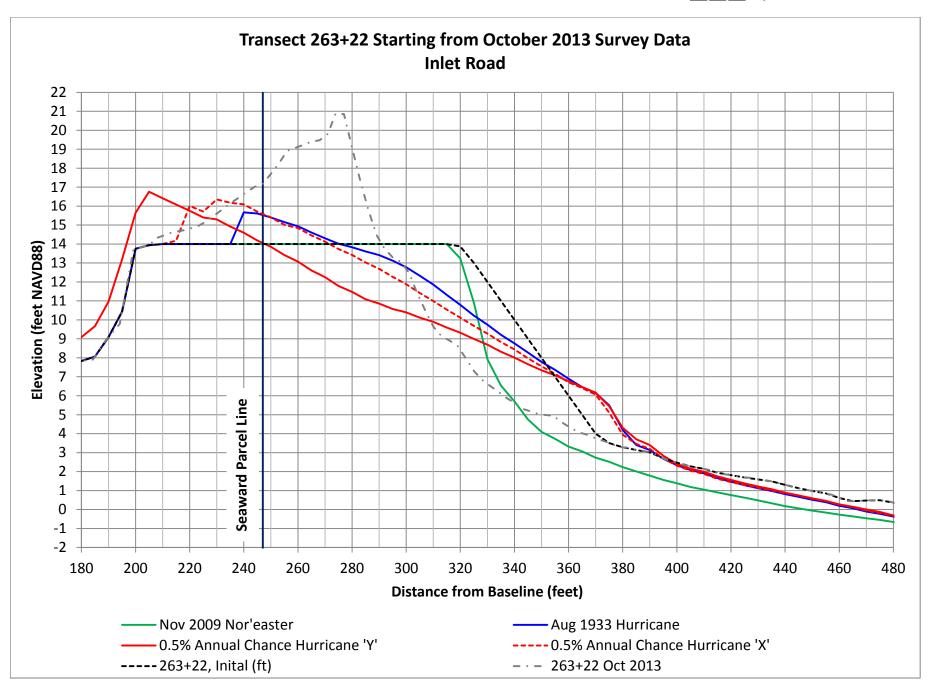


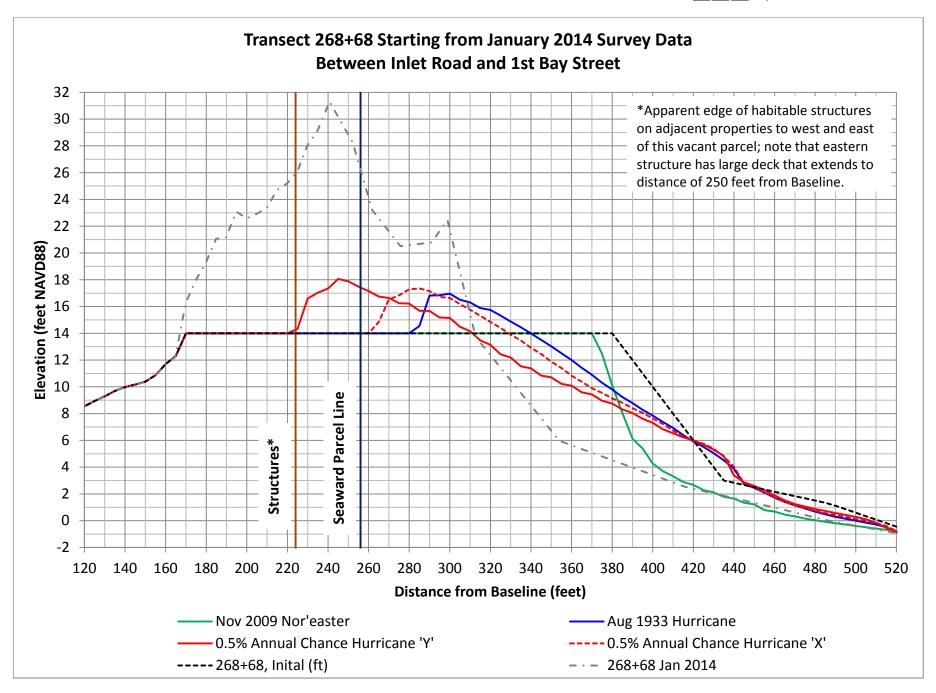


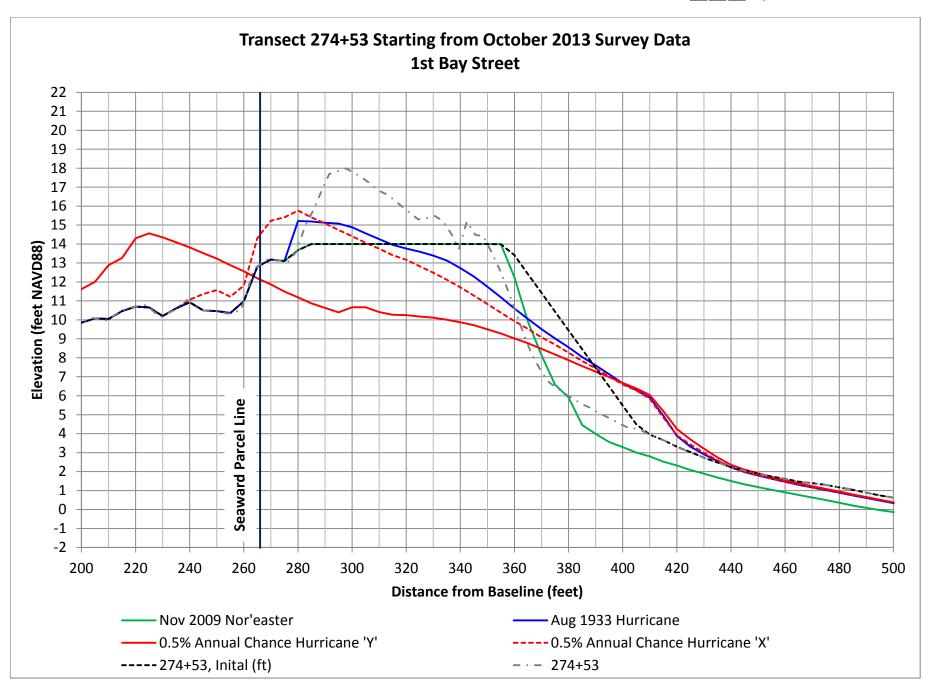


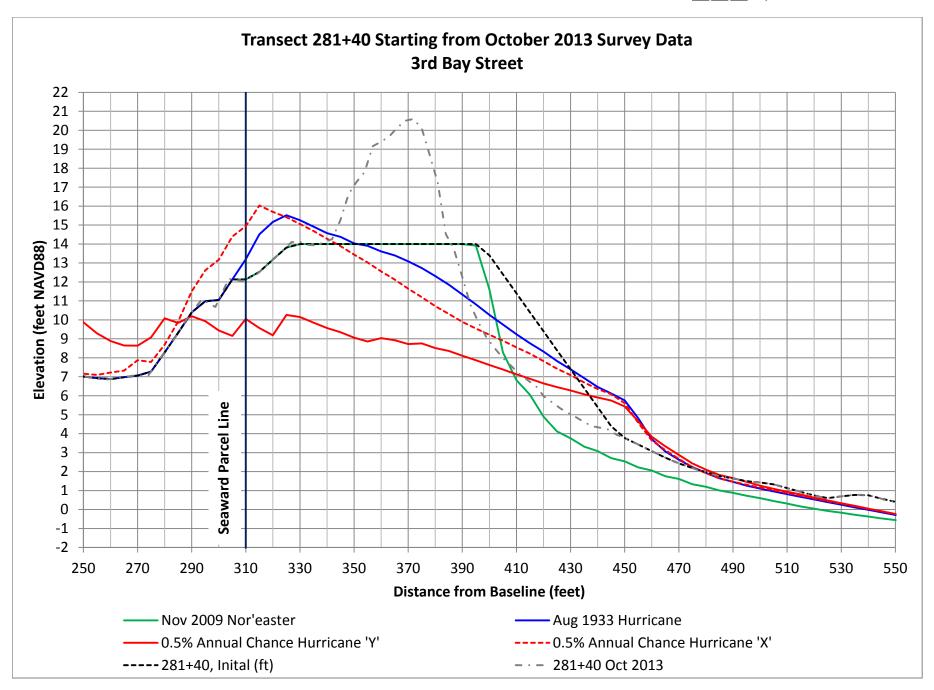






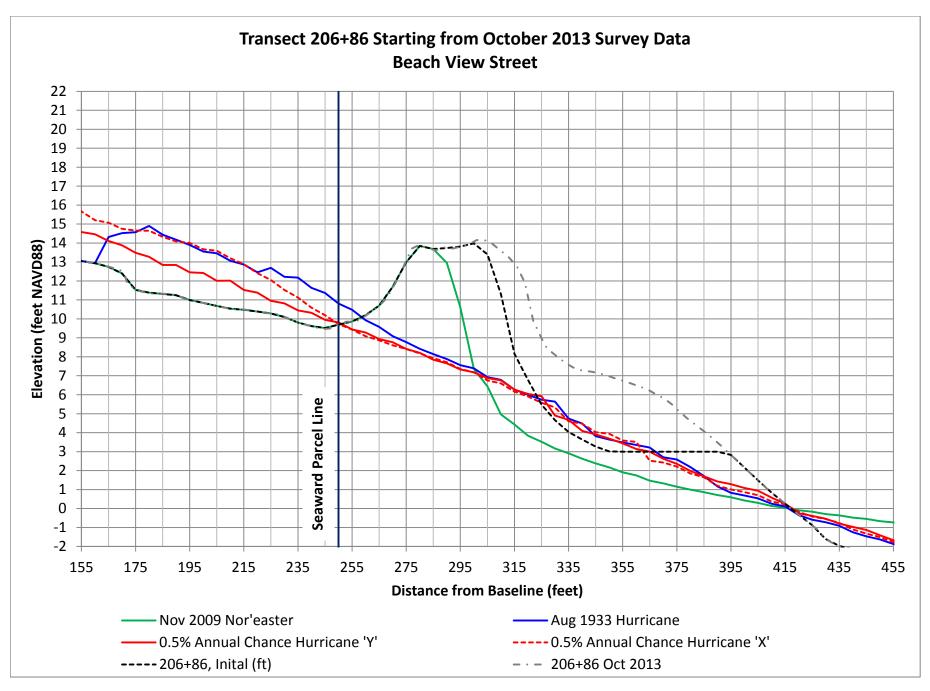




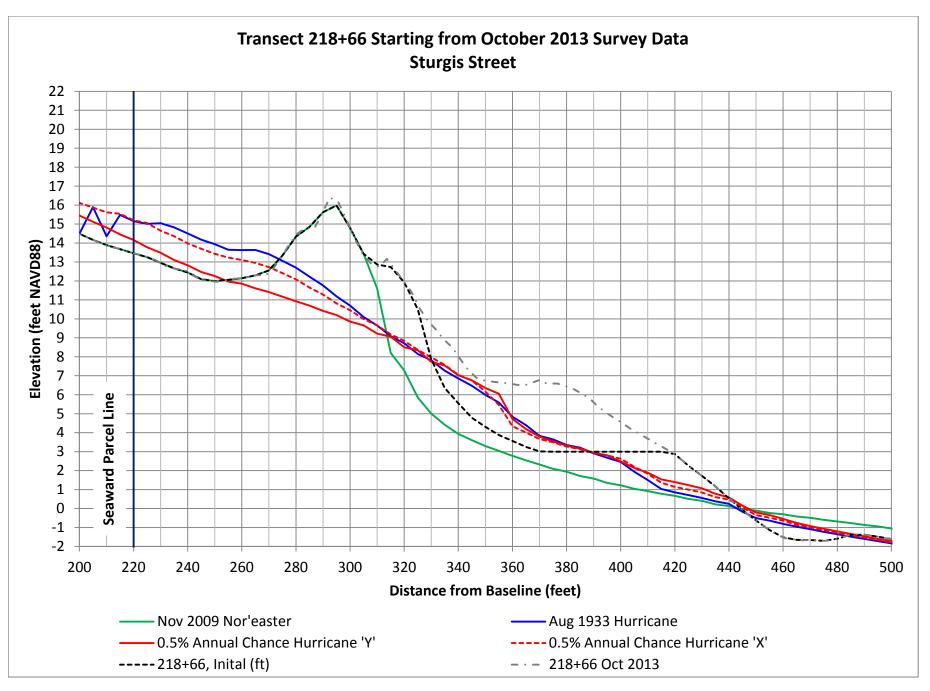


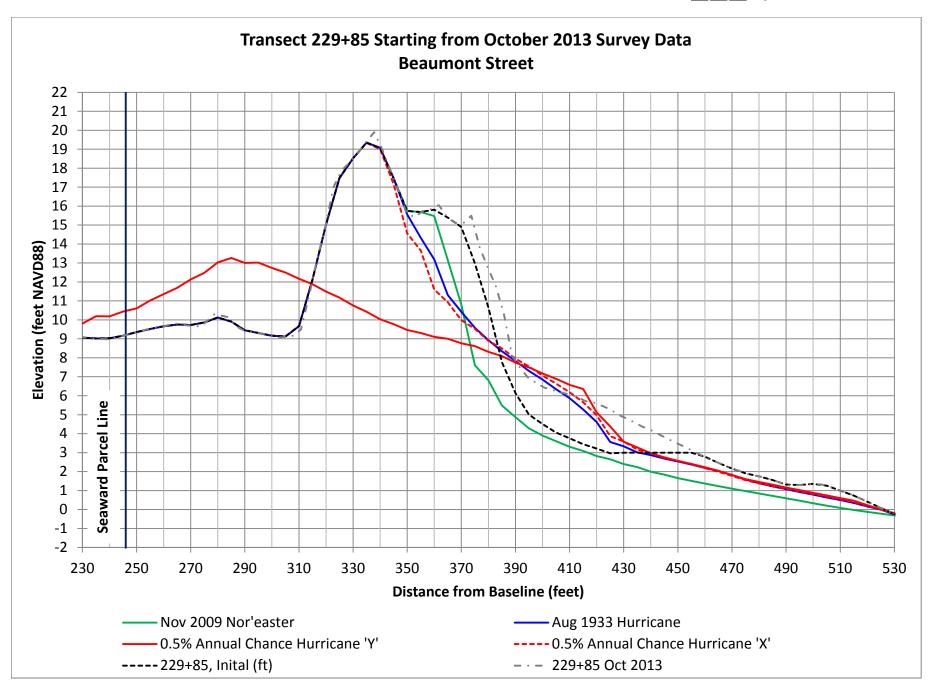
Appendix F: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, Existing Conditions Initialized from 2009 Nor'easter Post Storm Profile



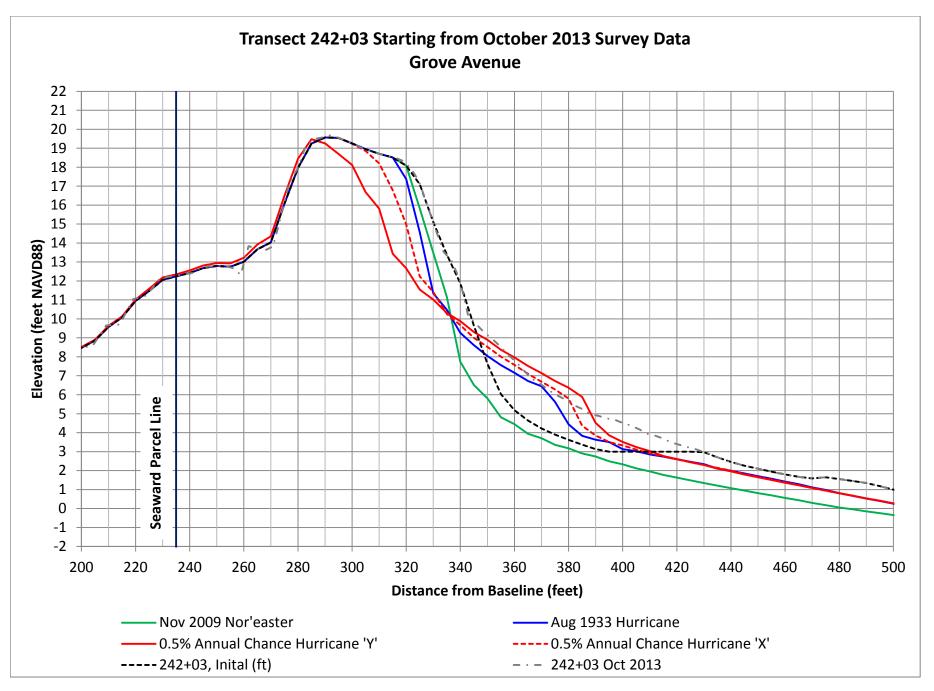




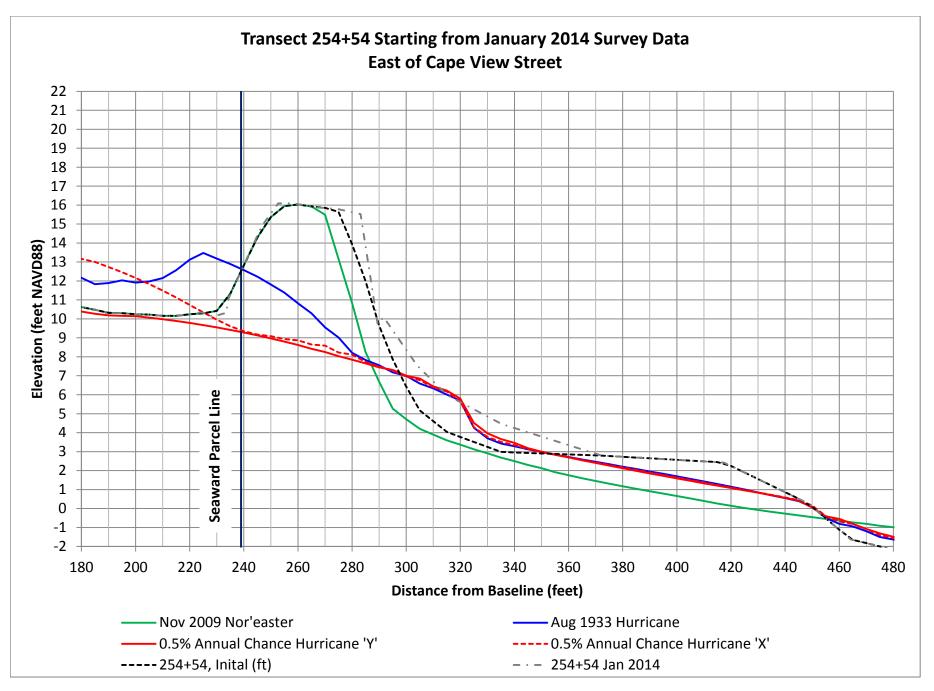




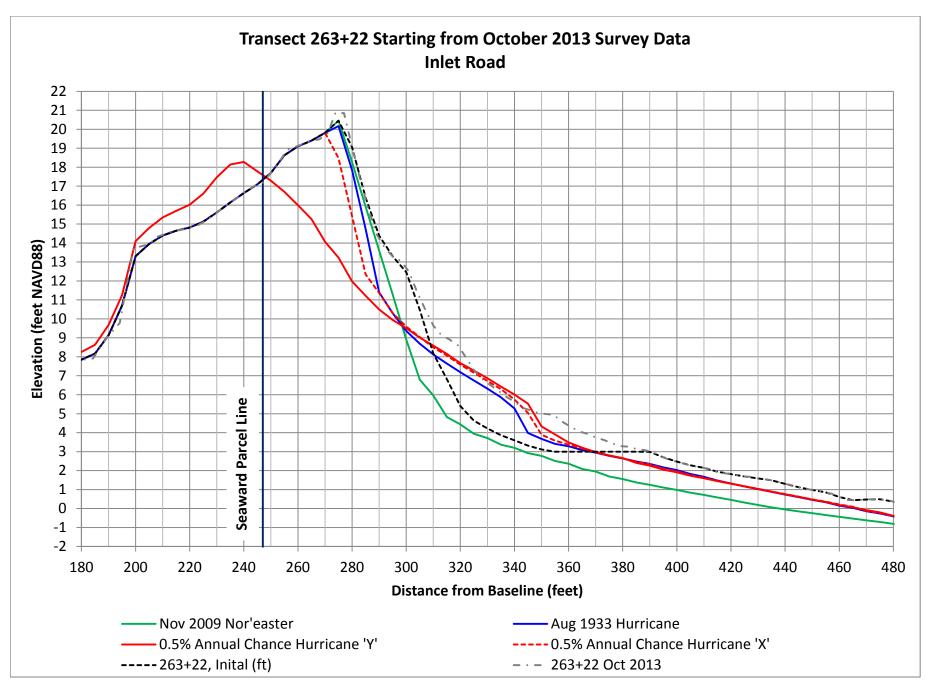




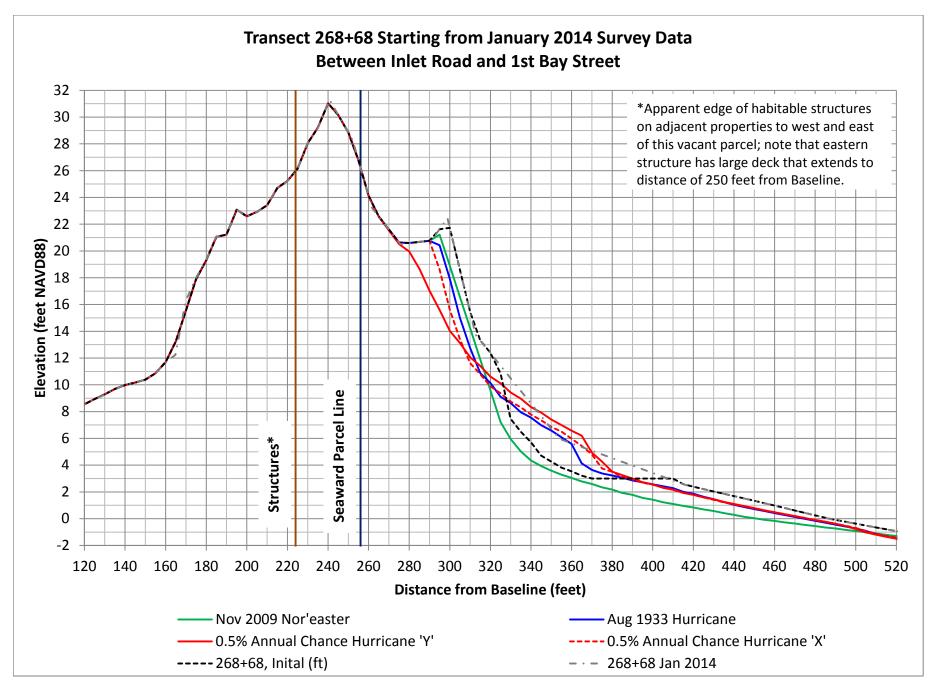




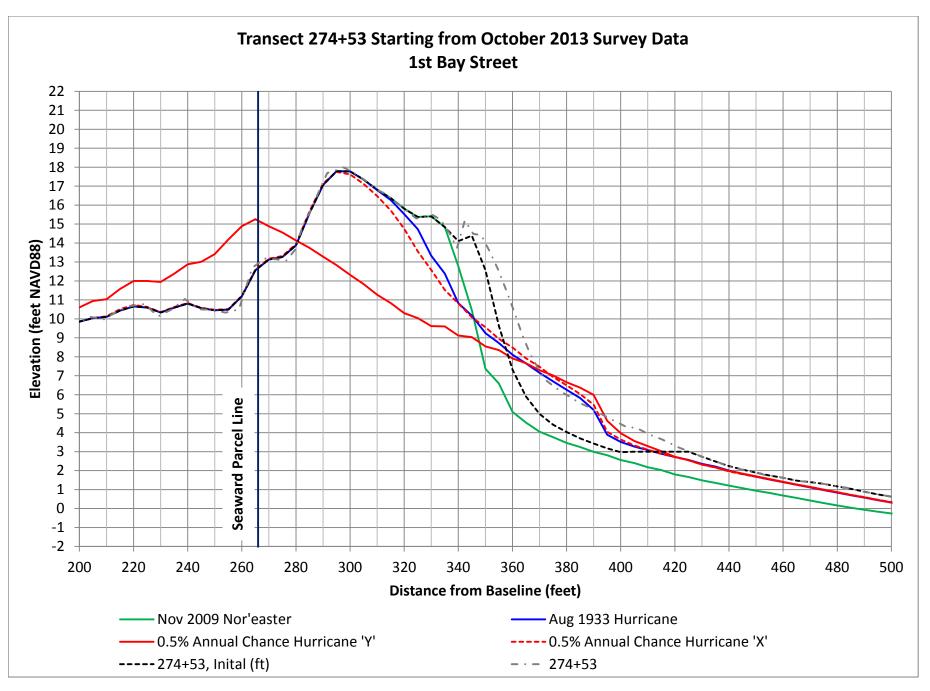




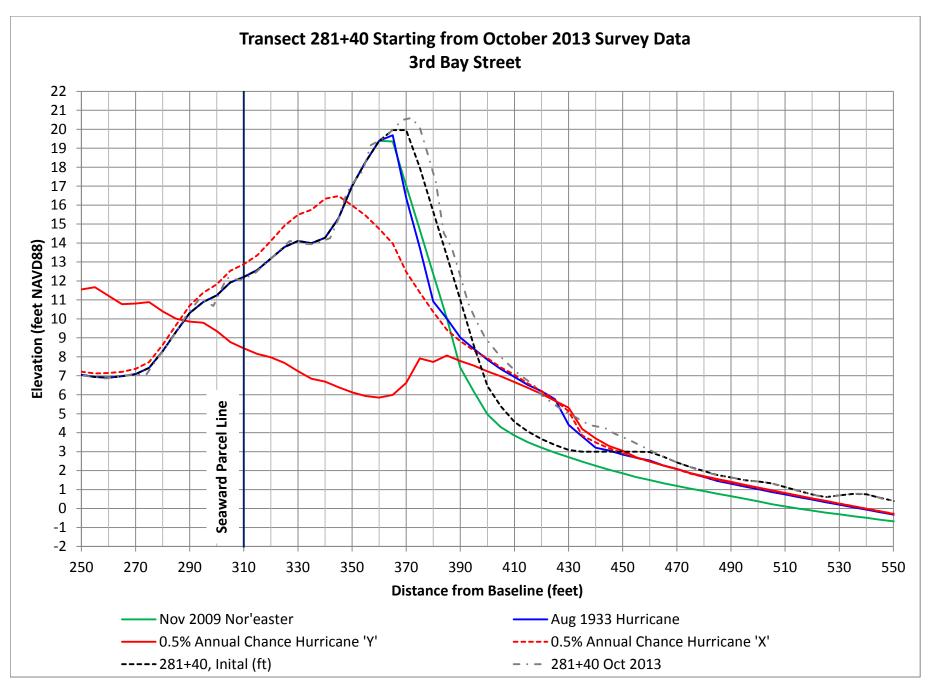




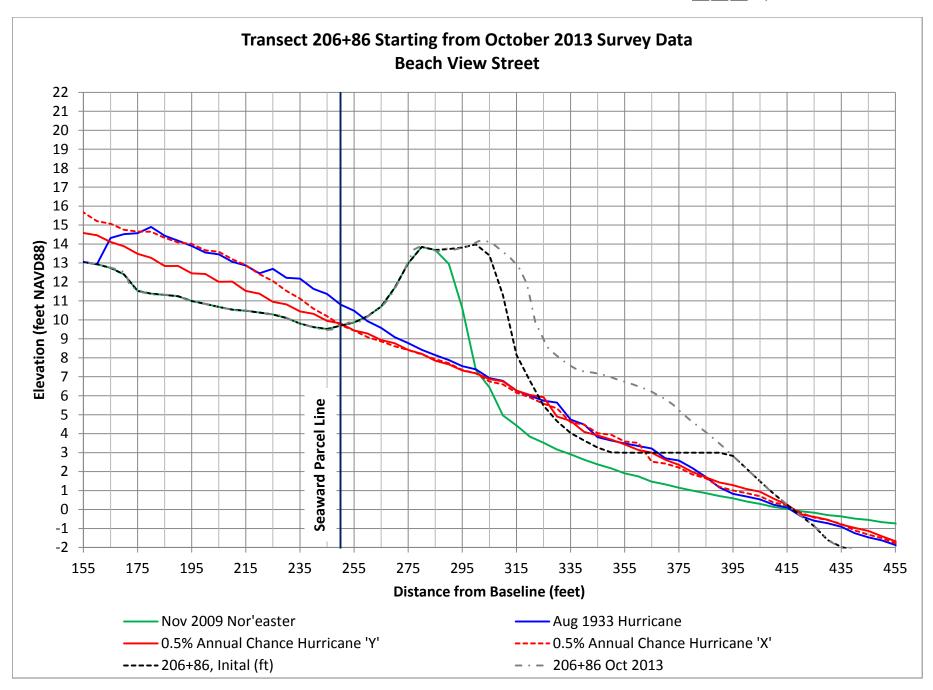




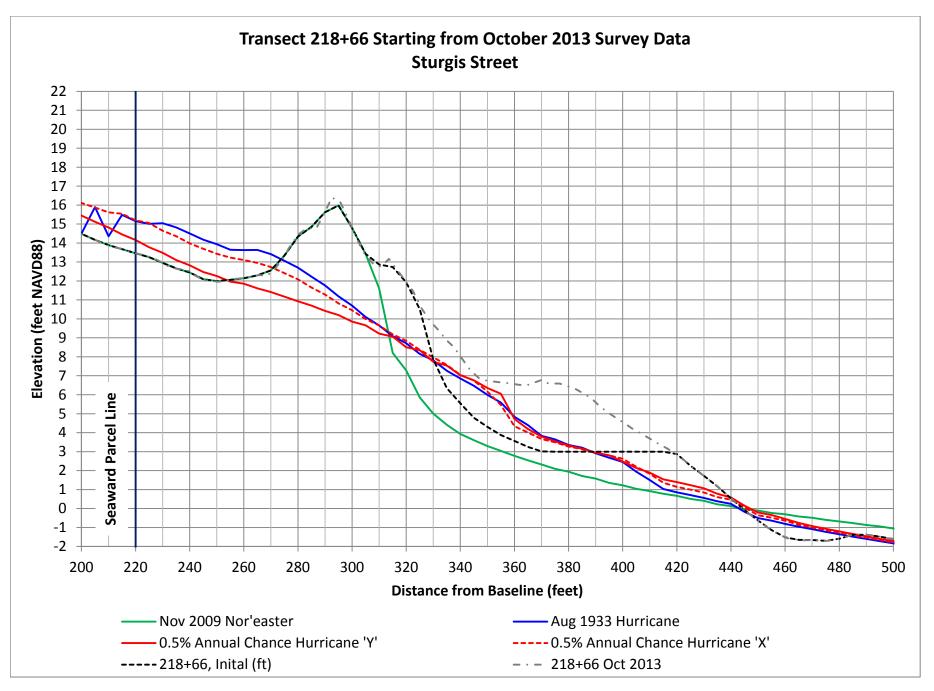


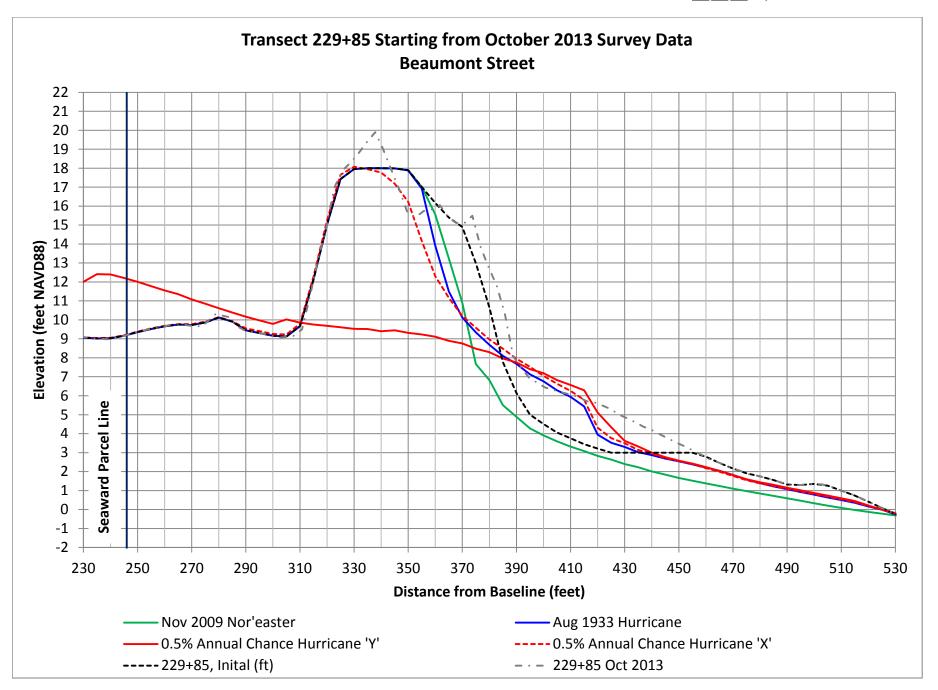


Appendix G: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +18 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation Initialized from 2009 Nor'easter Post Storm Profile

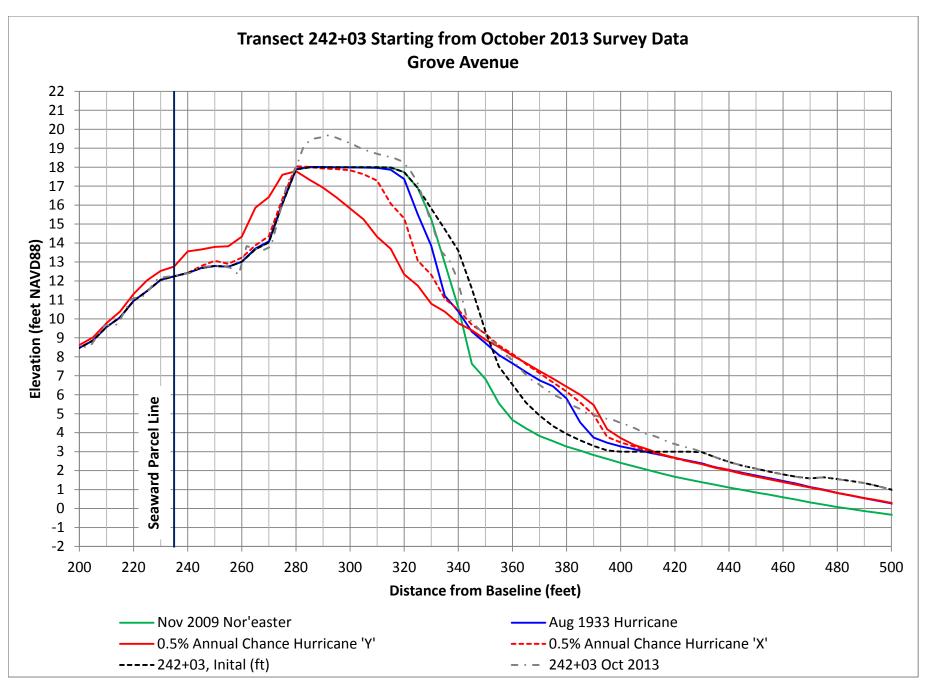




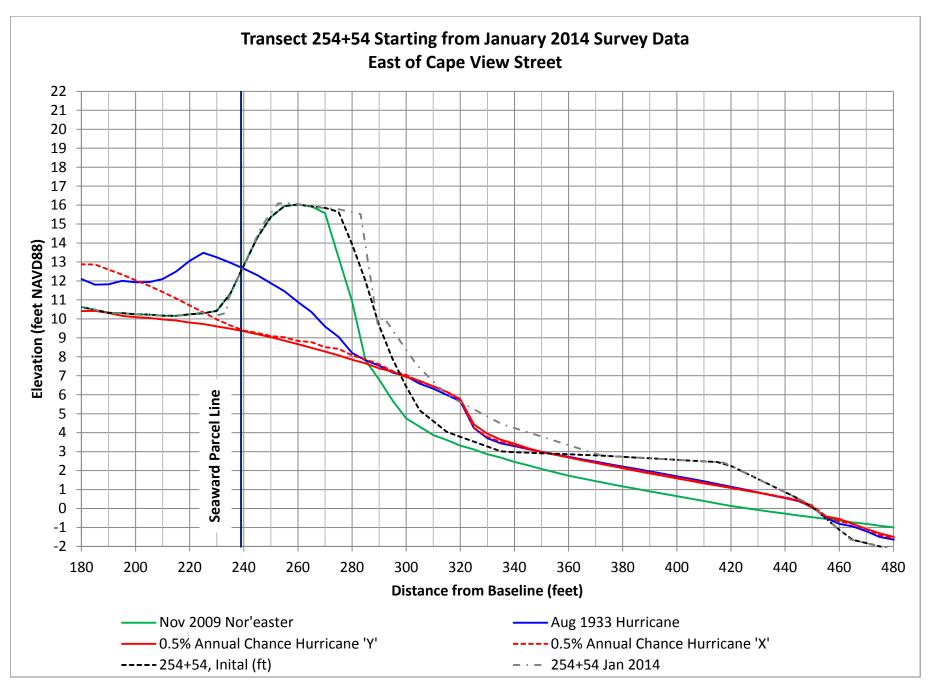




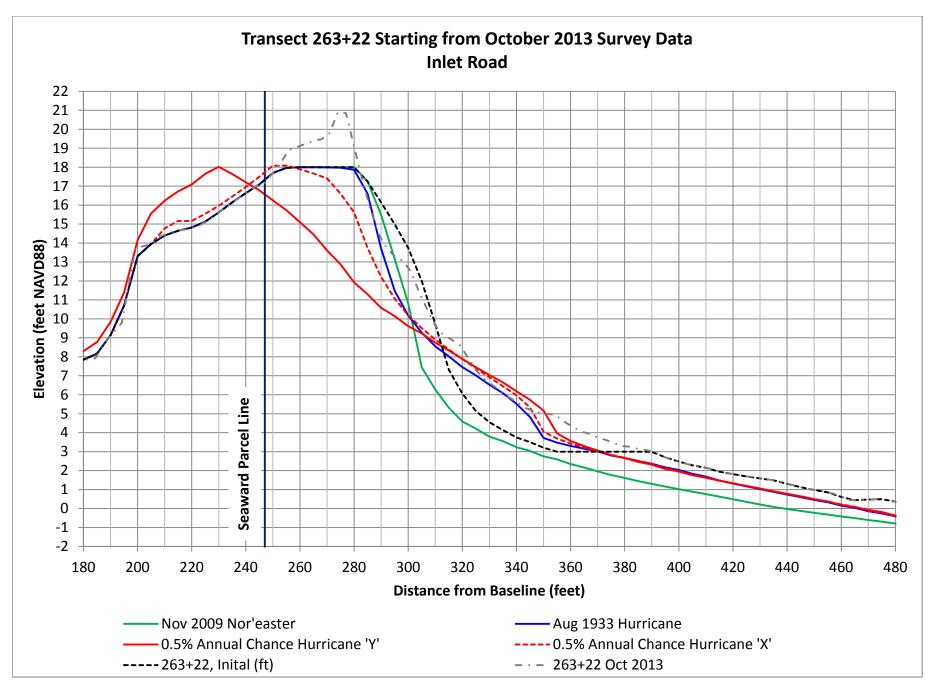




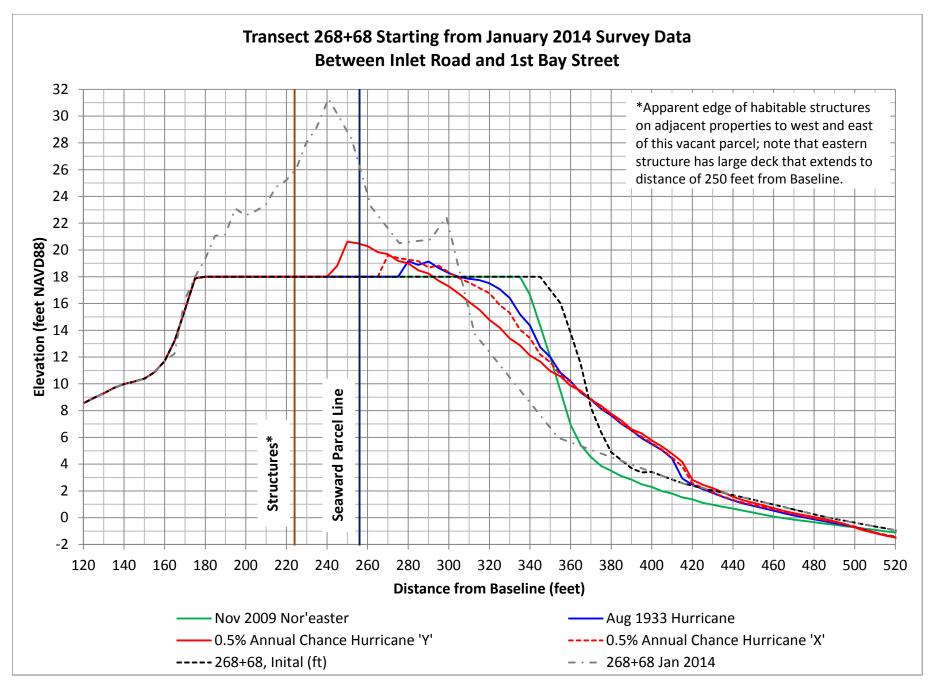




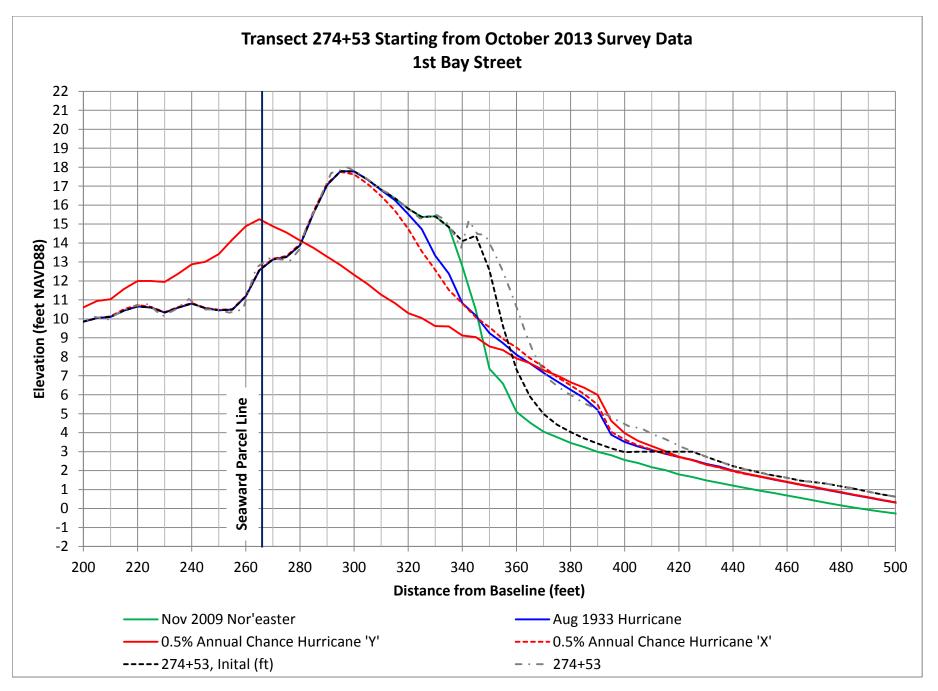


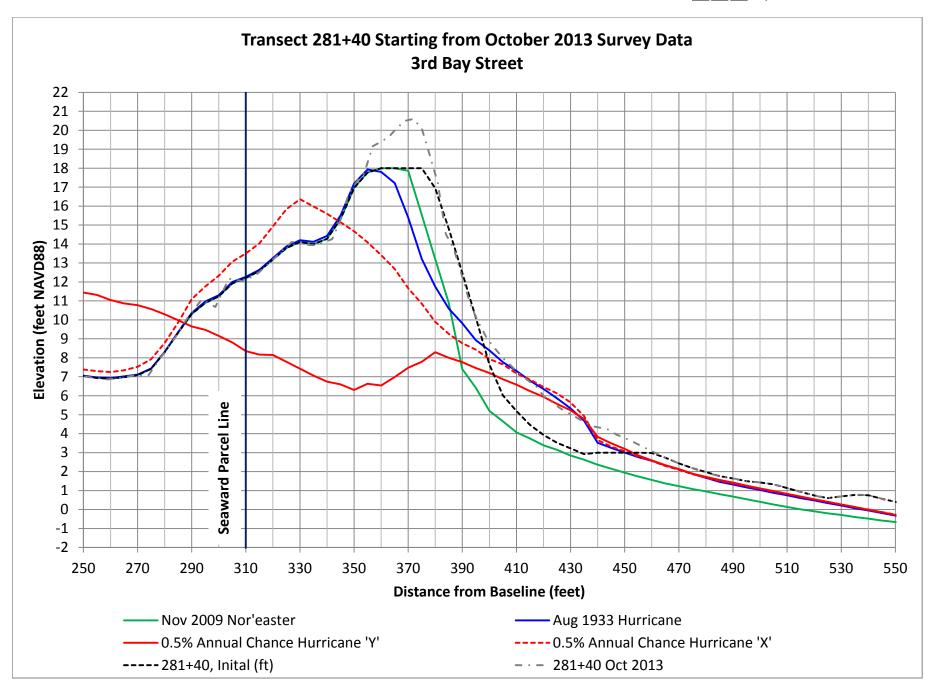






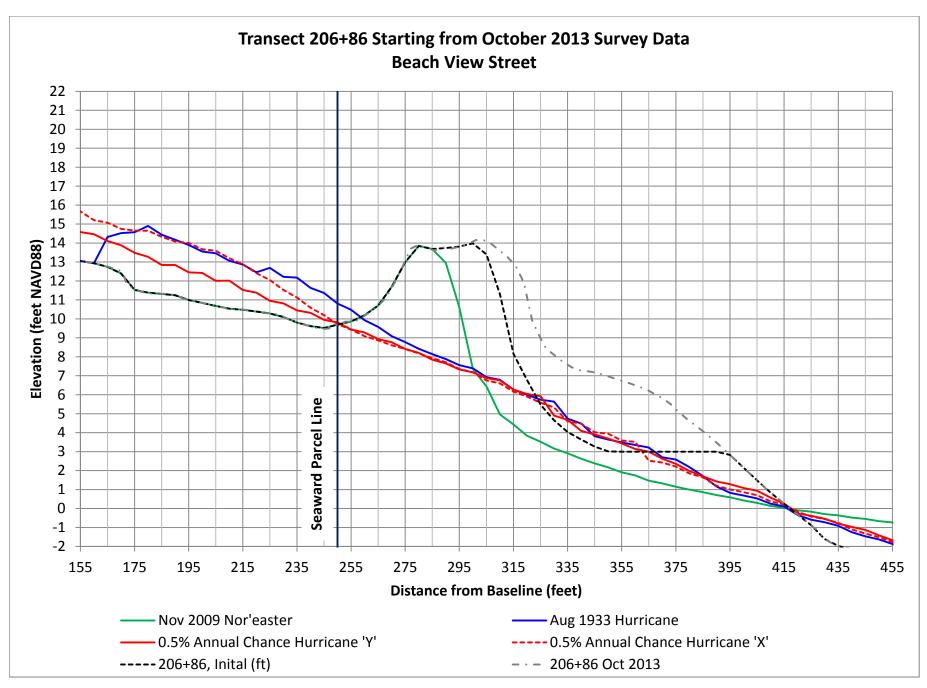




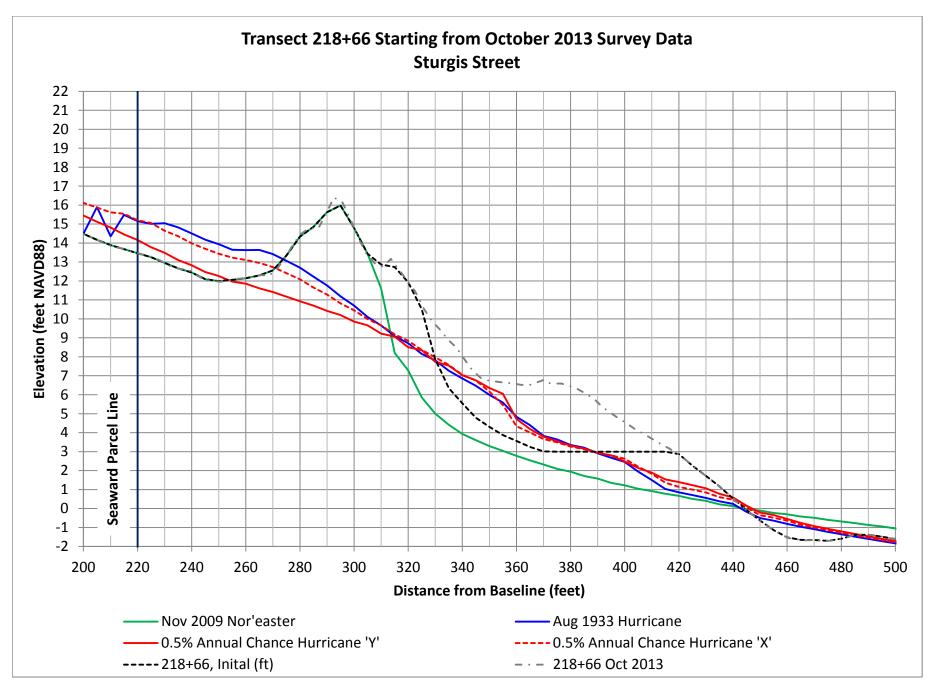


Appendix H: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +16 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation Initialized from 2009 Nor'easter Post Storm Profile

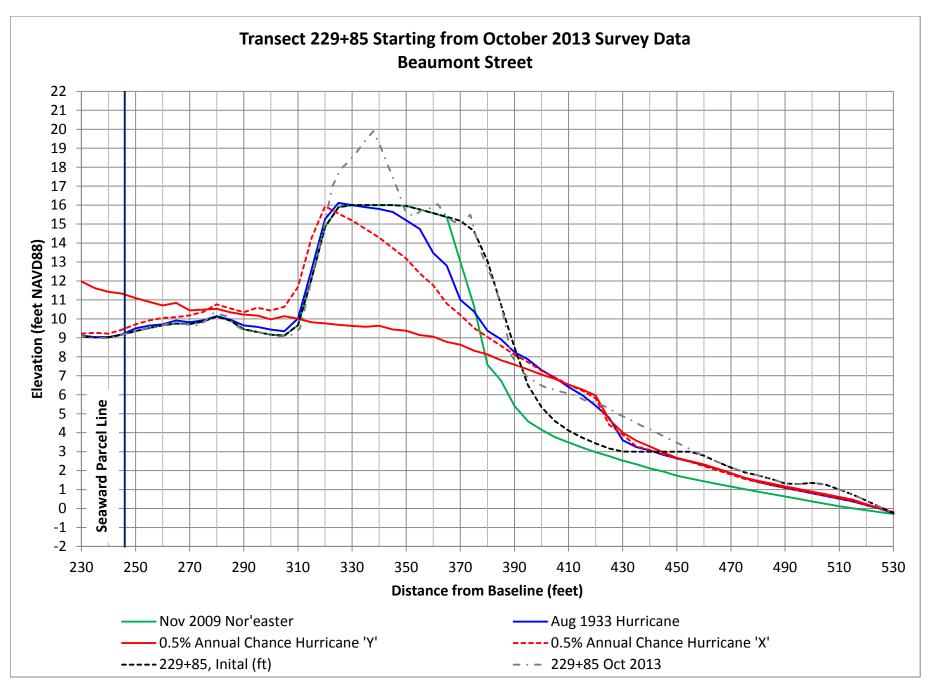




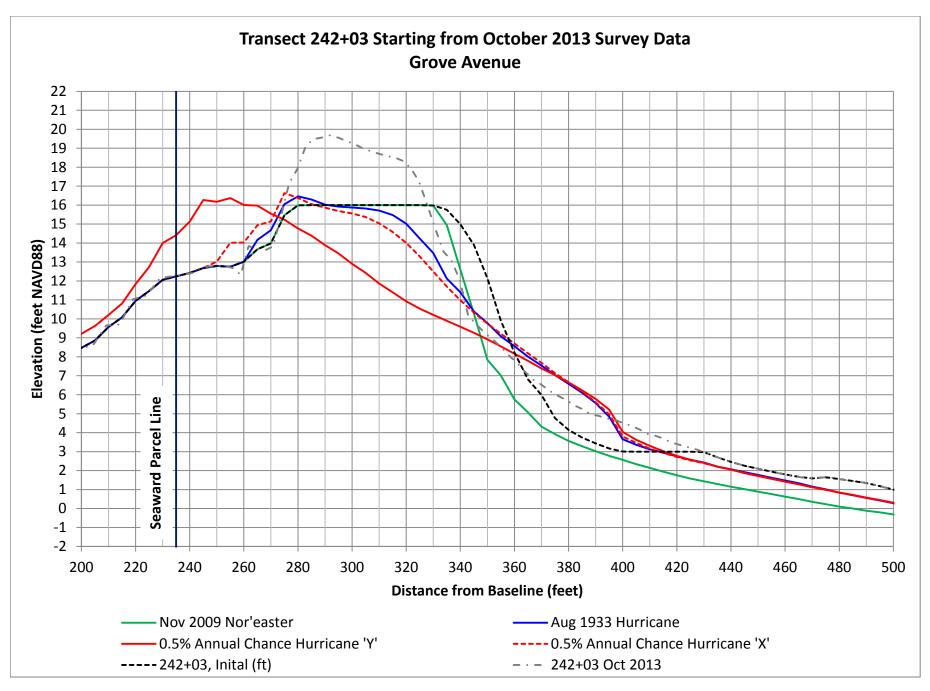




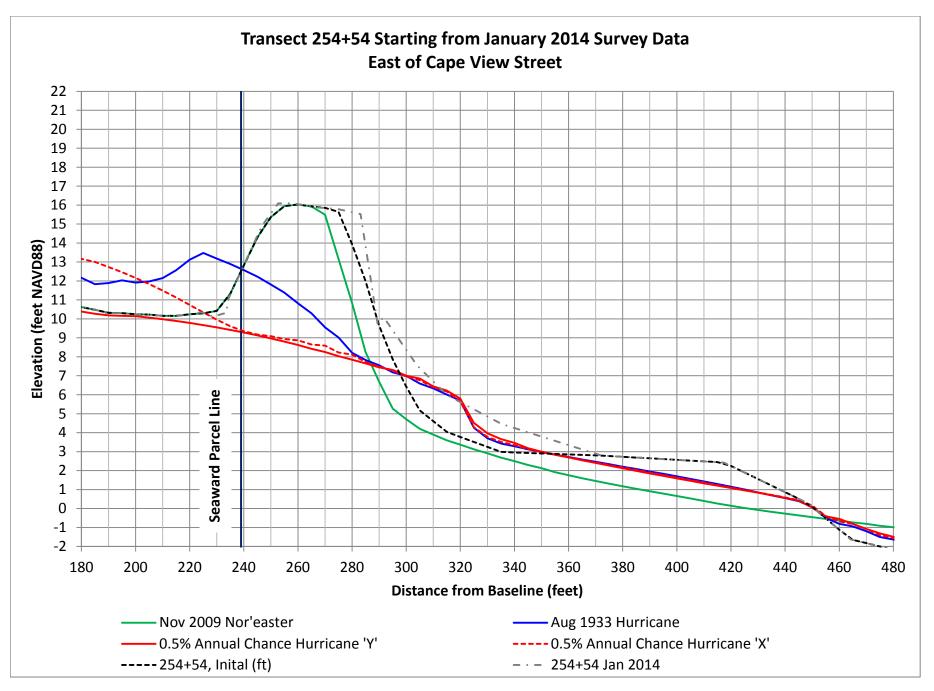




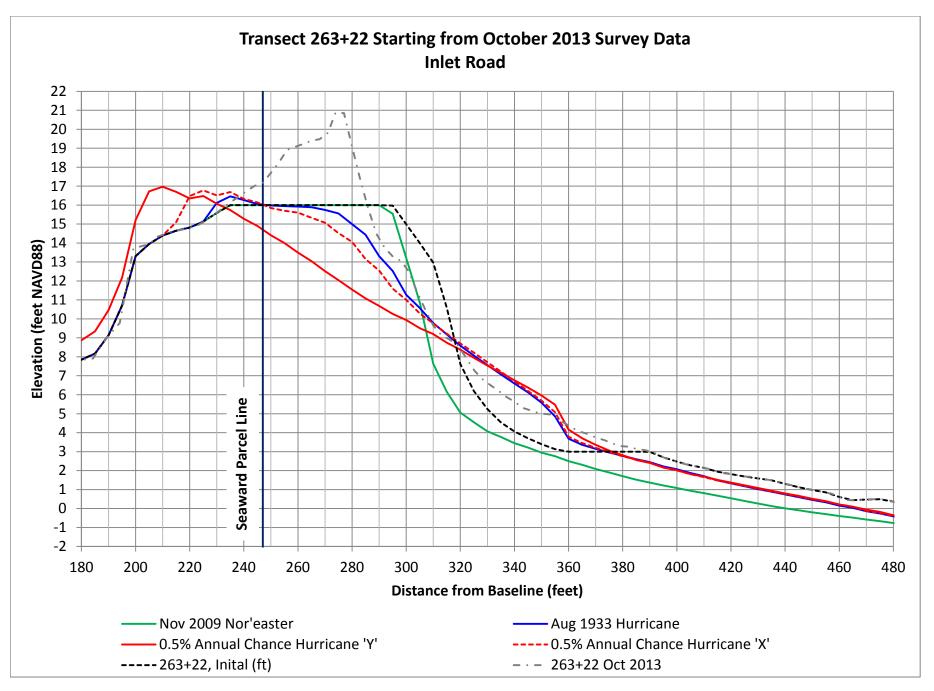




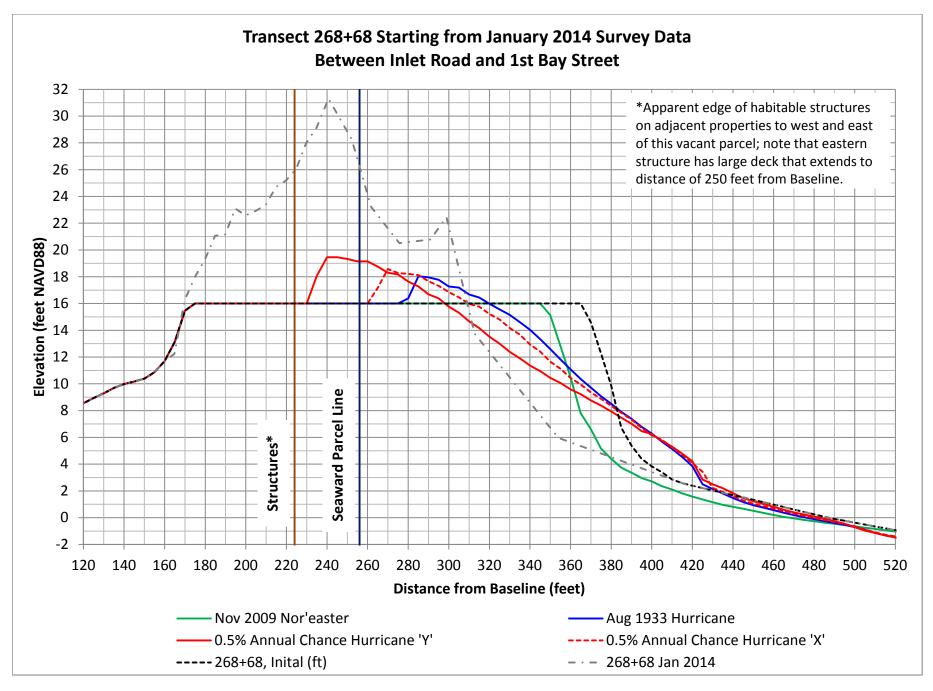




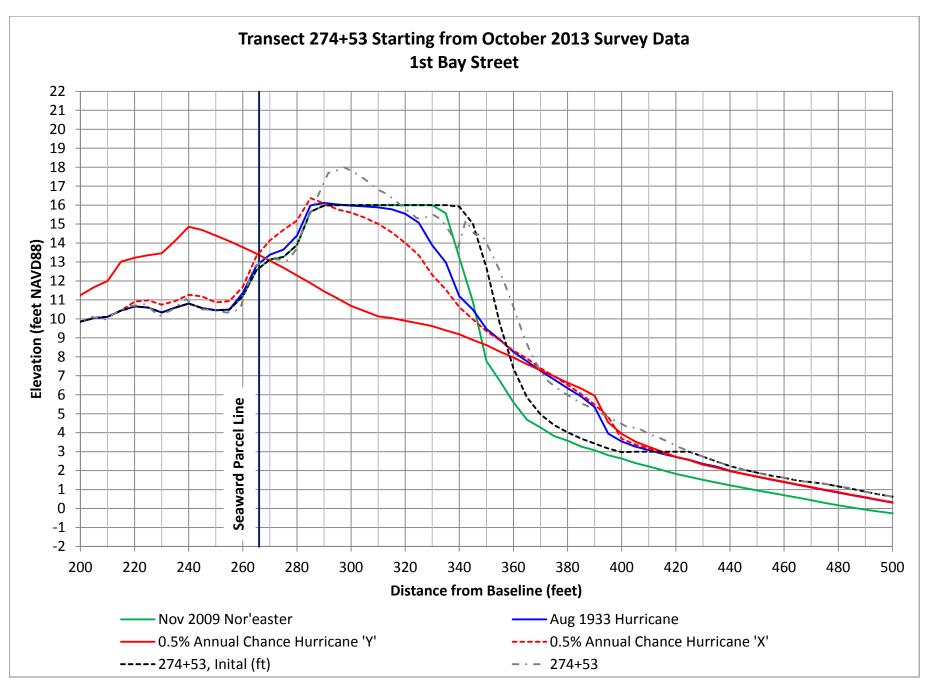




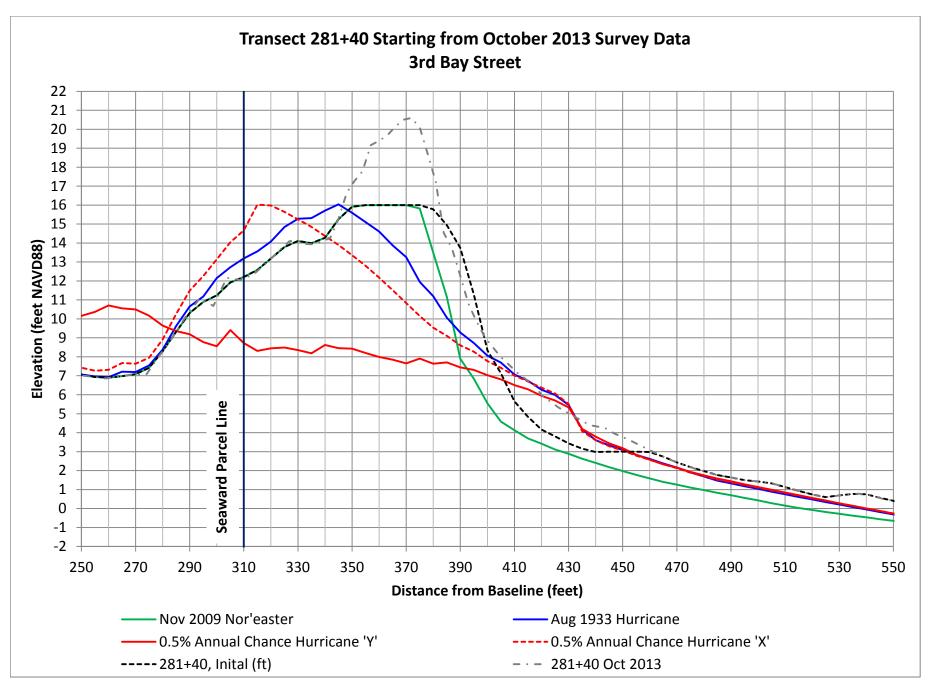






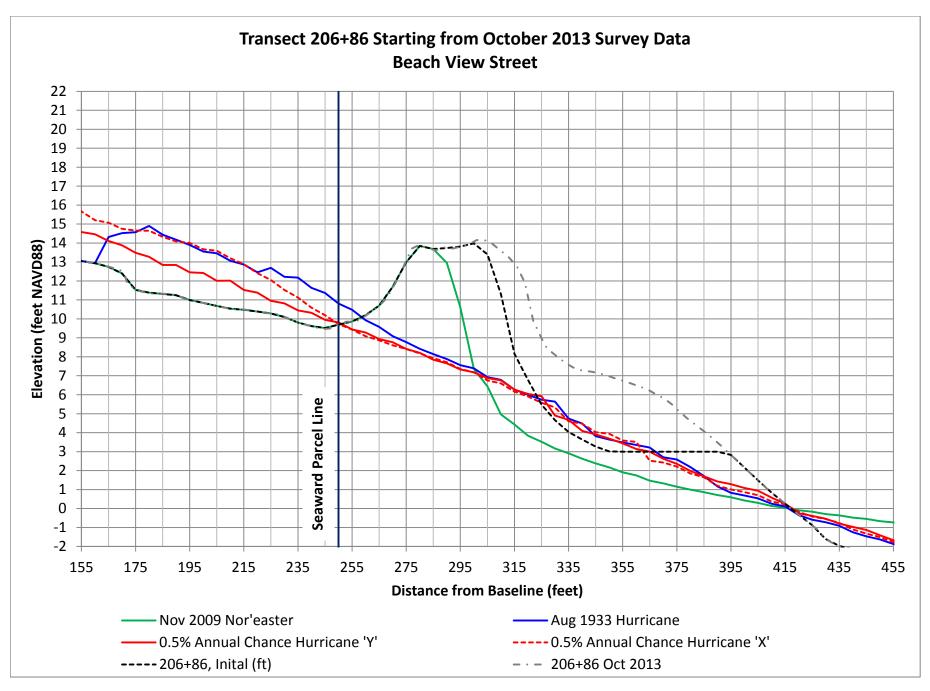




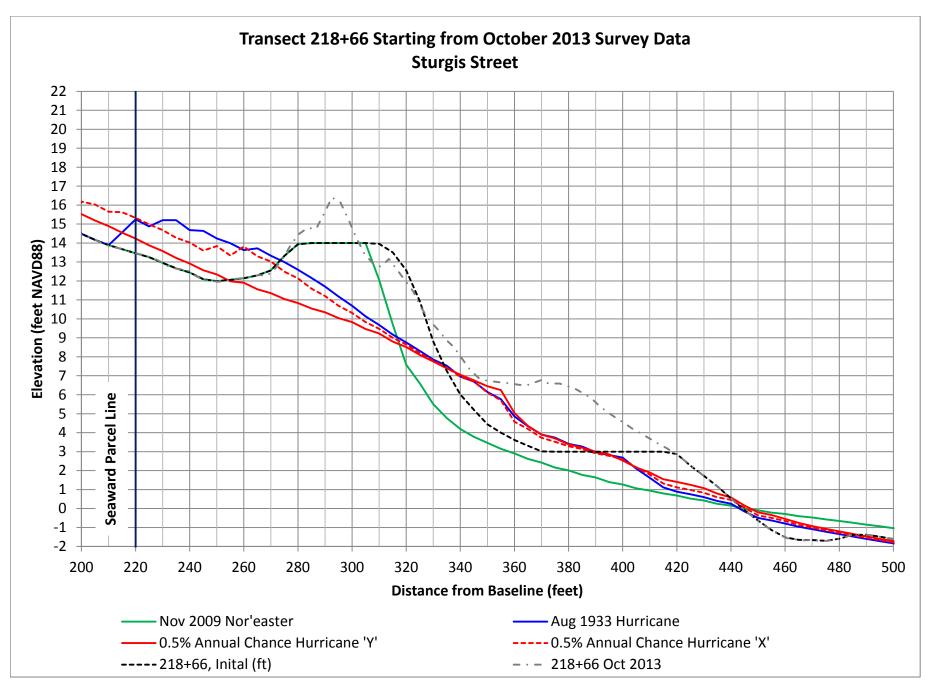


Appendix I: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +14 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation Initialized from 2009 Nor'easter Post Storm Profile

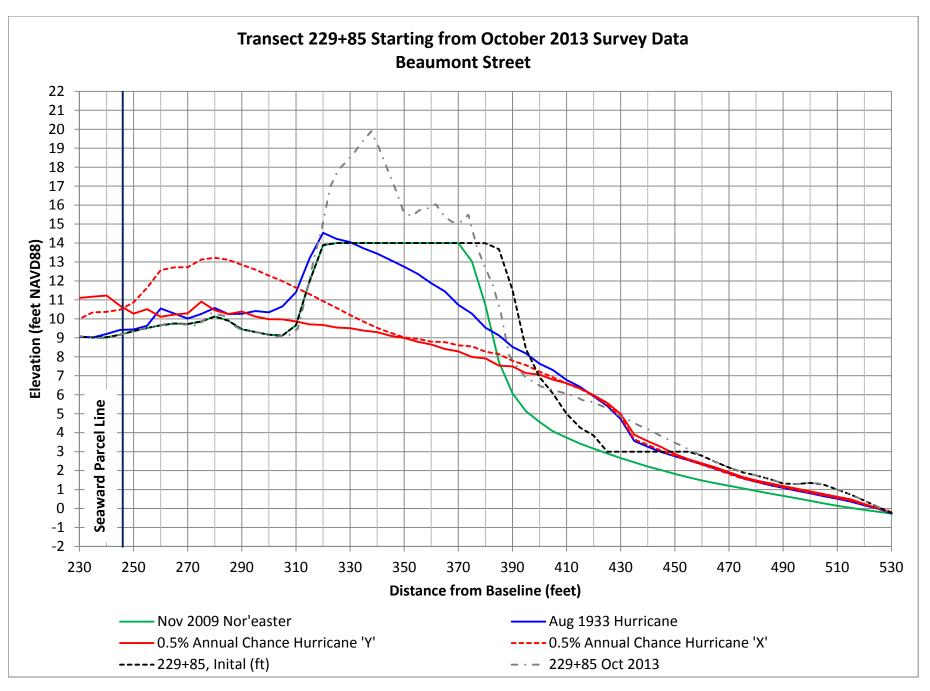




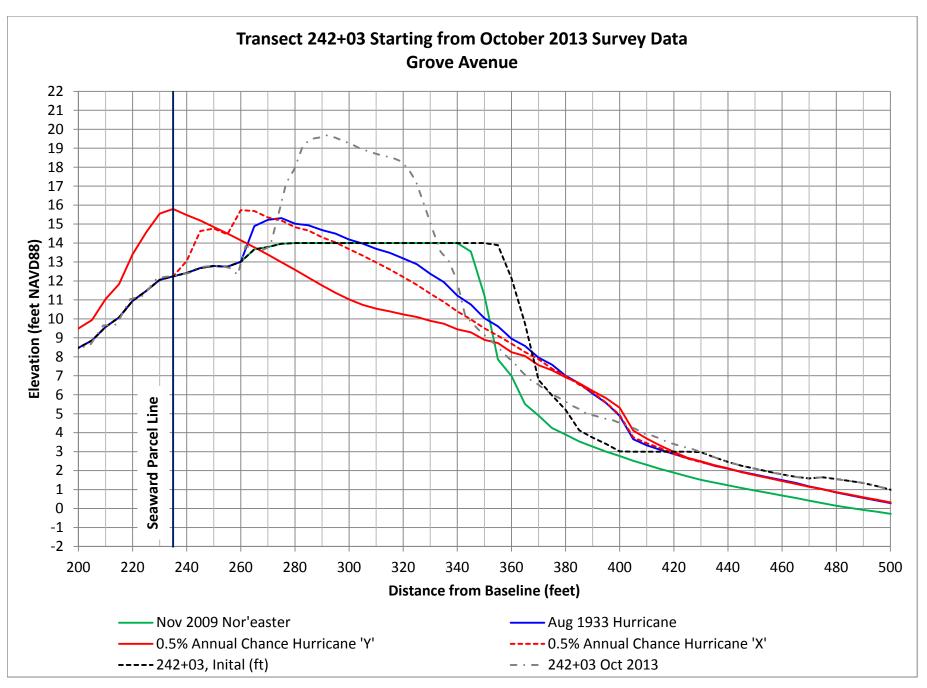




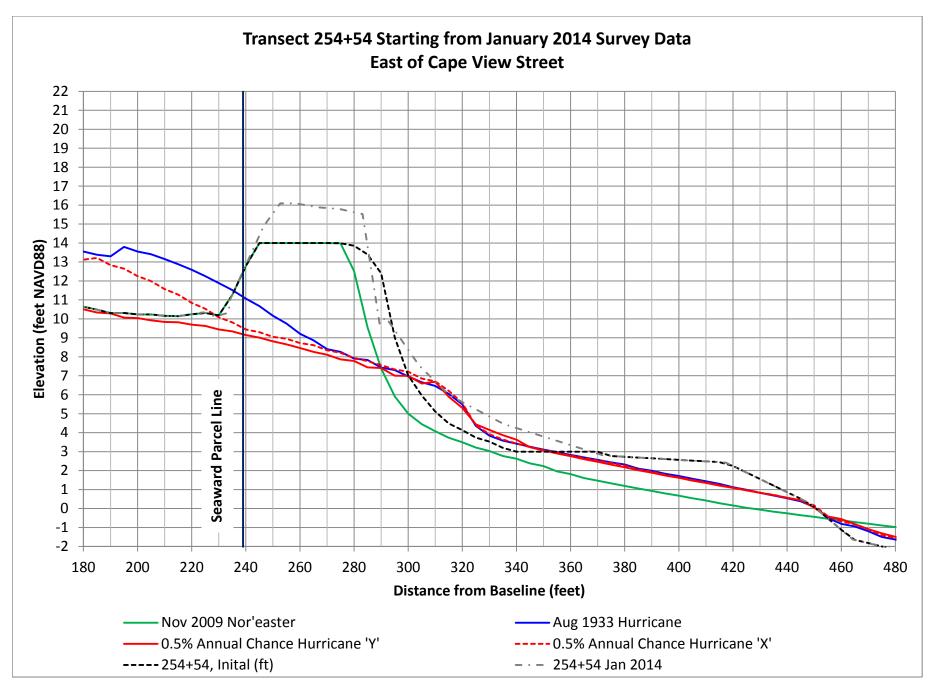




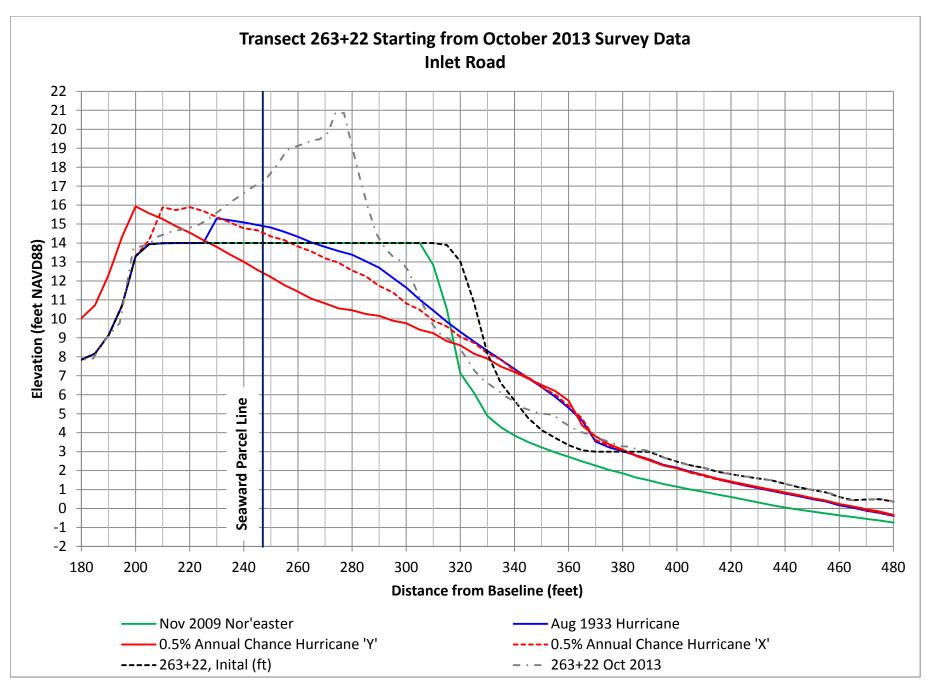




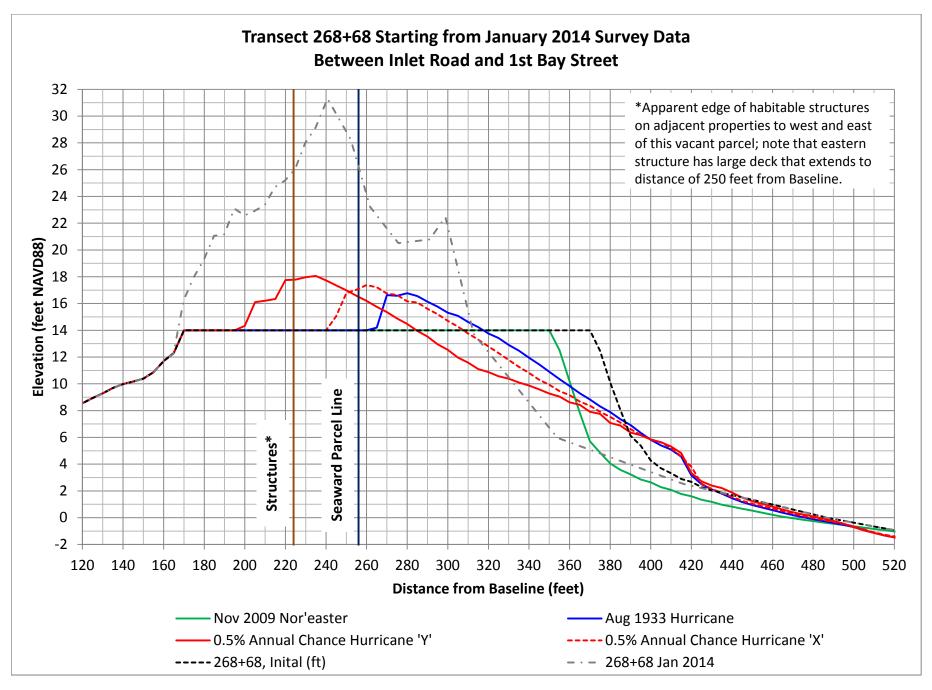




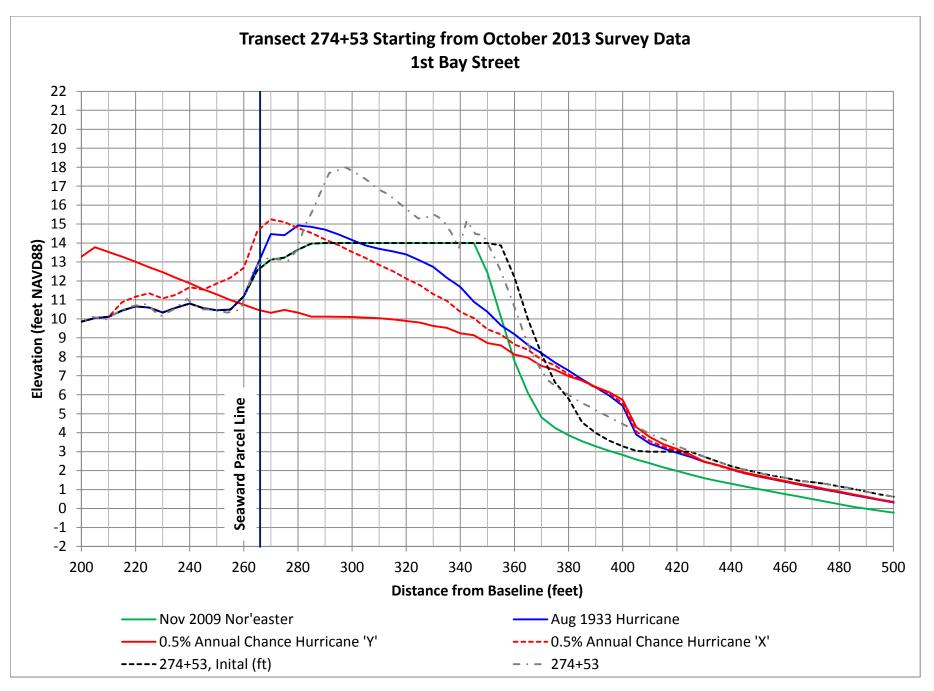




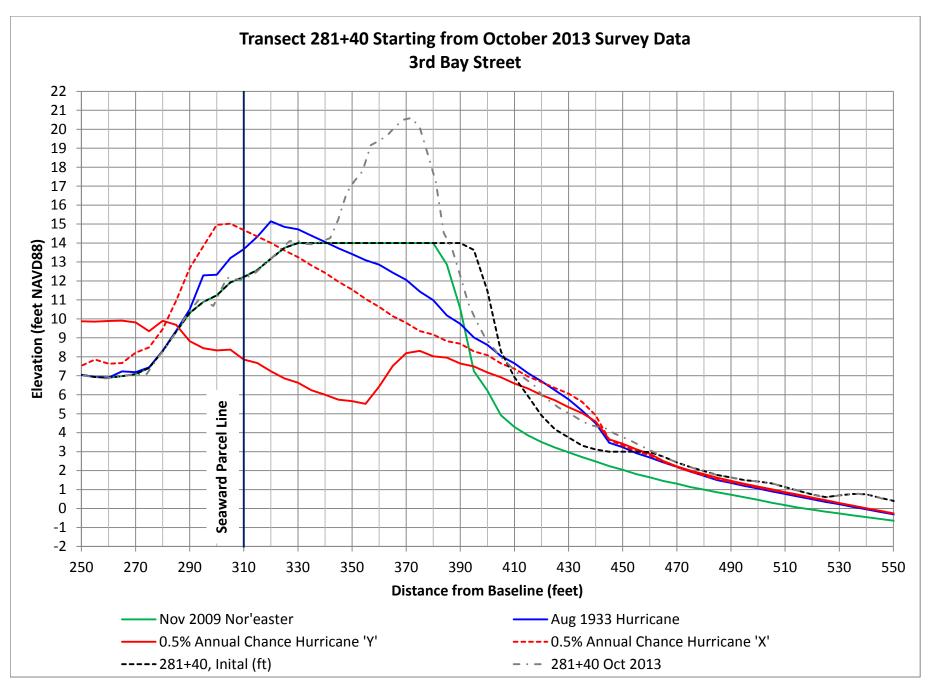




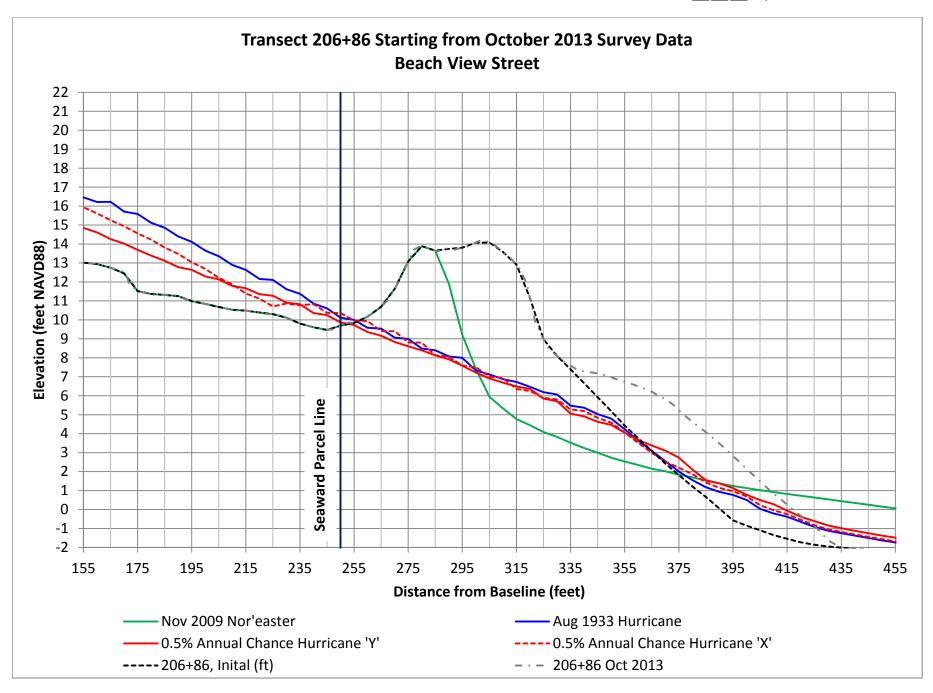


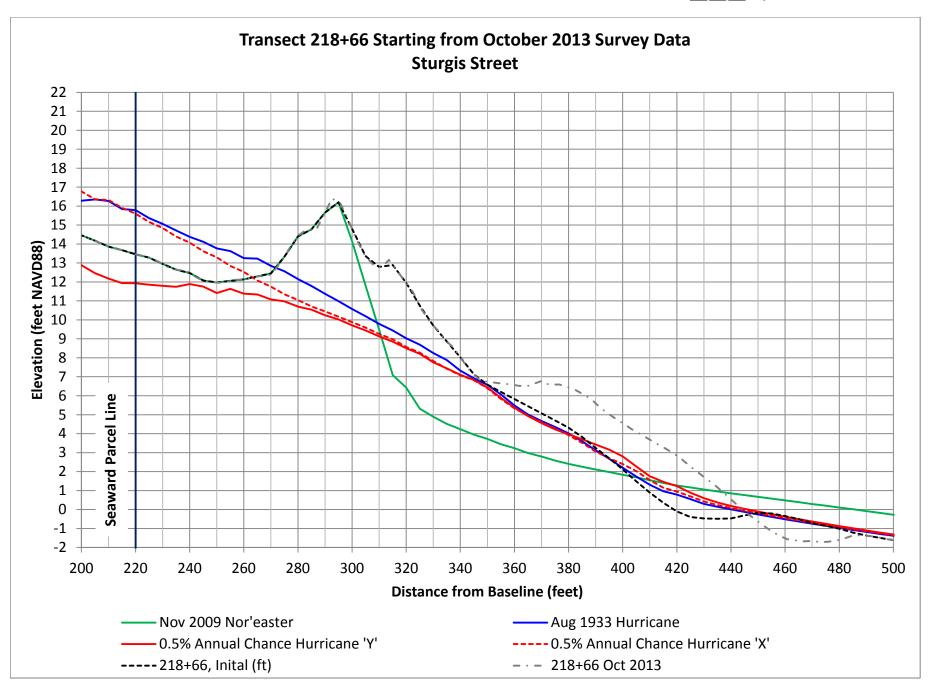


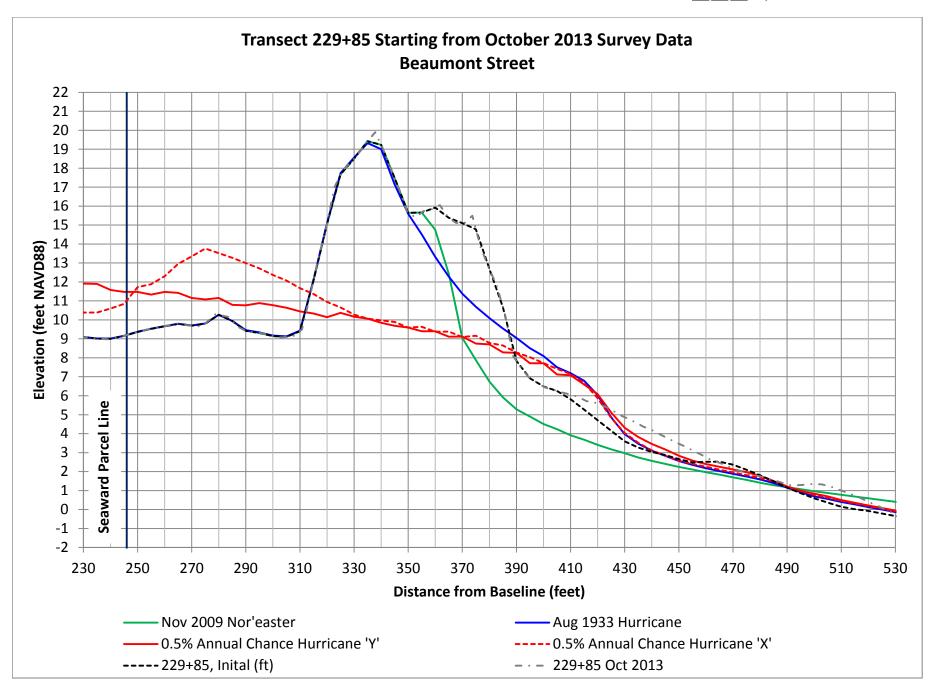


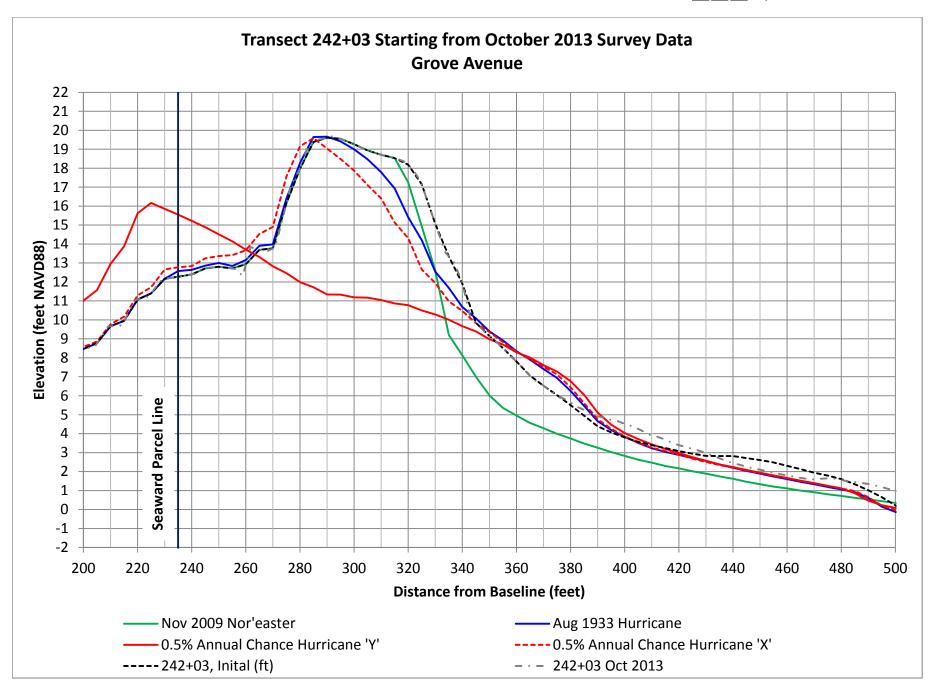


Appendix J: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, Existing Conditions With 1.2 Feet of Relative Sea Level Rise

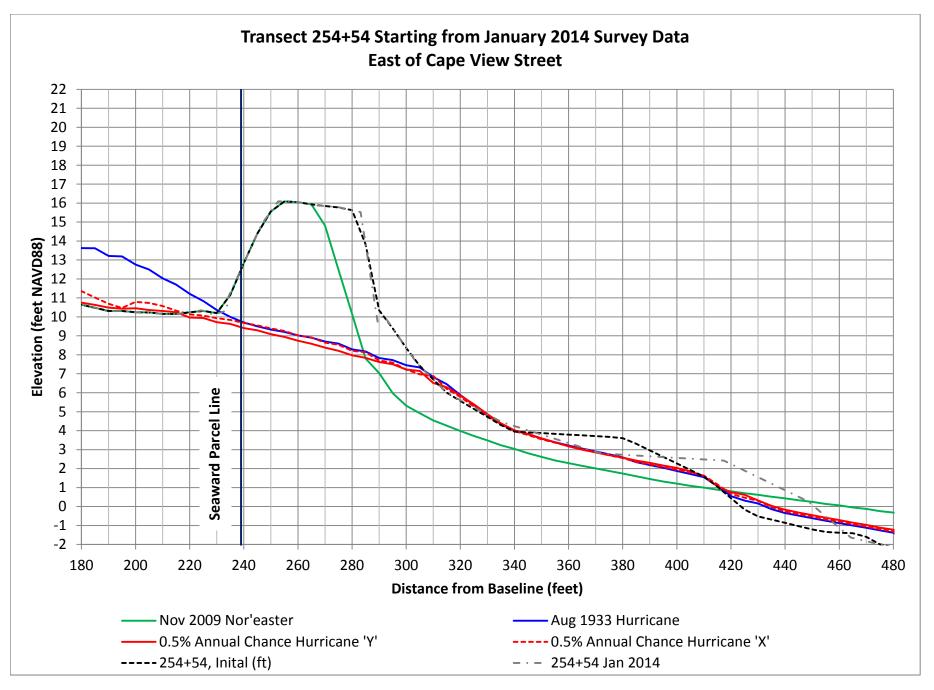


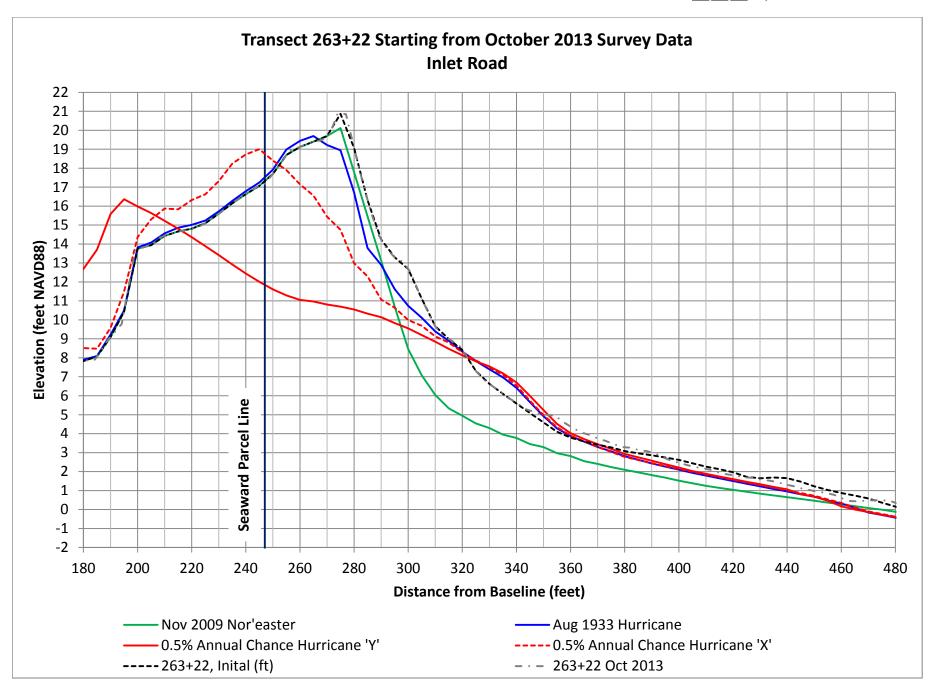




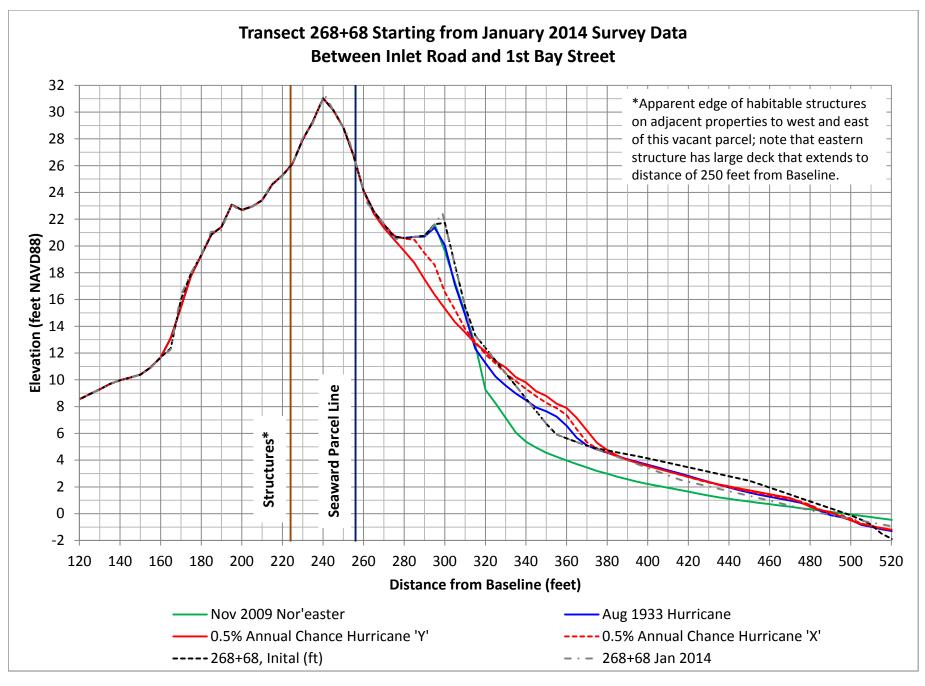


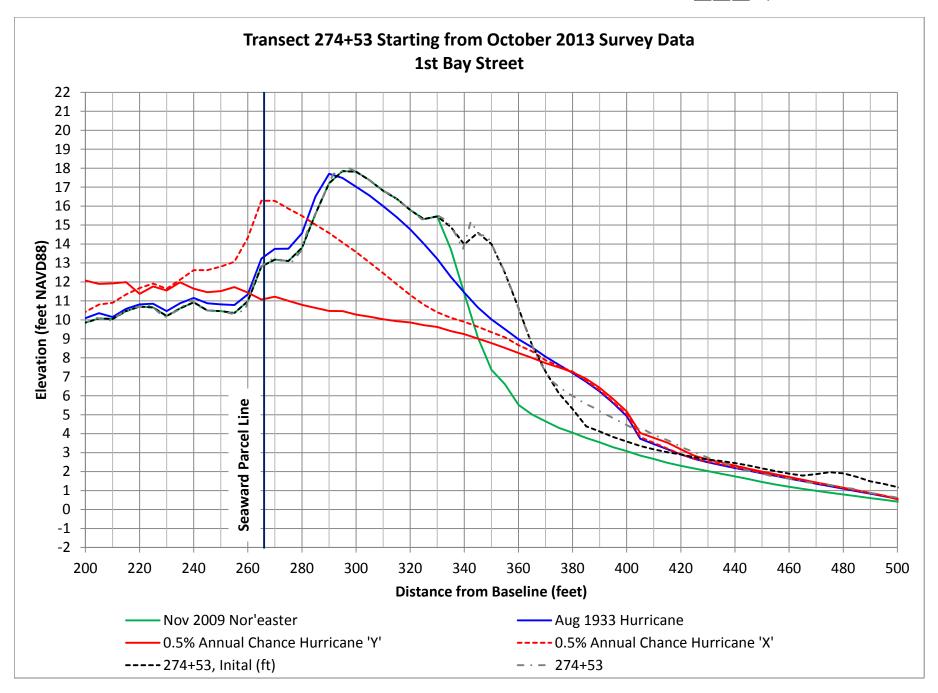


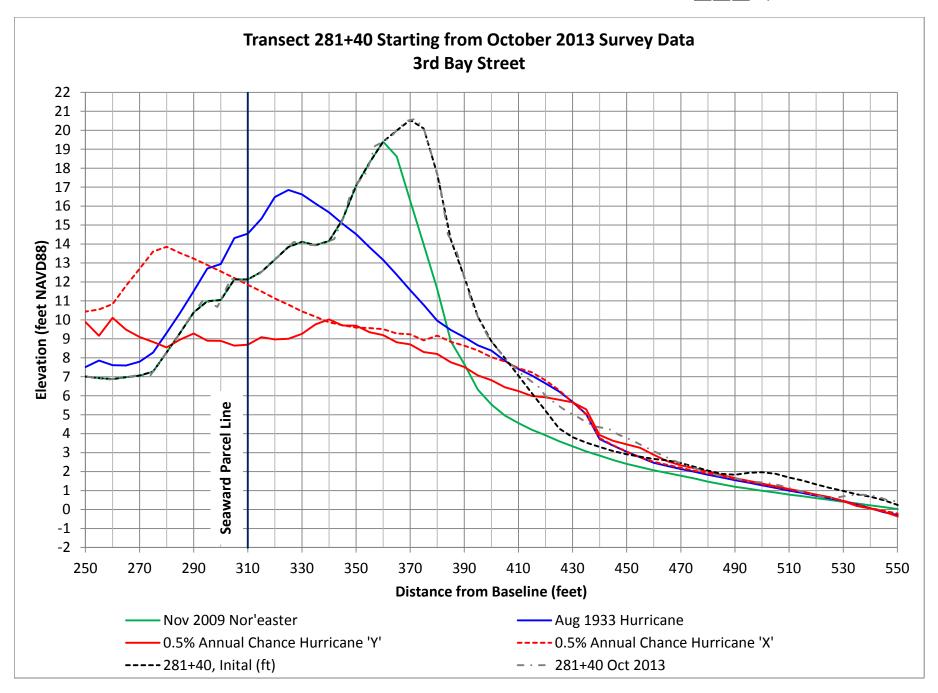




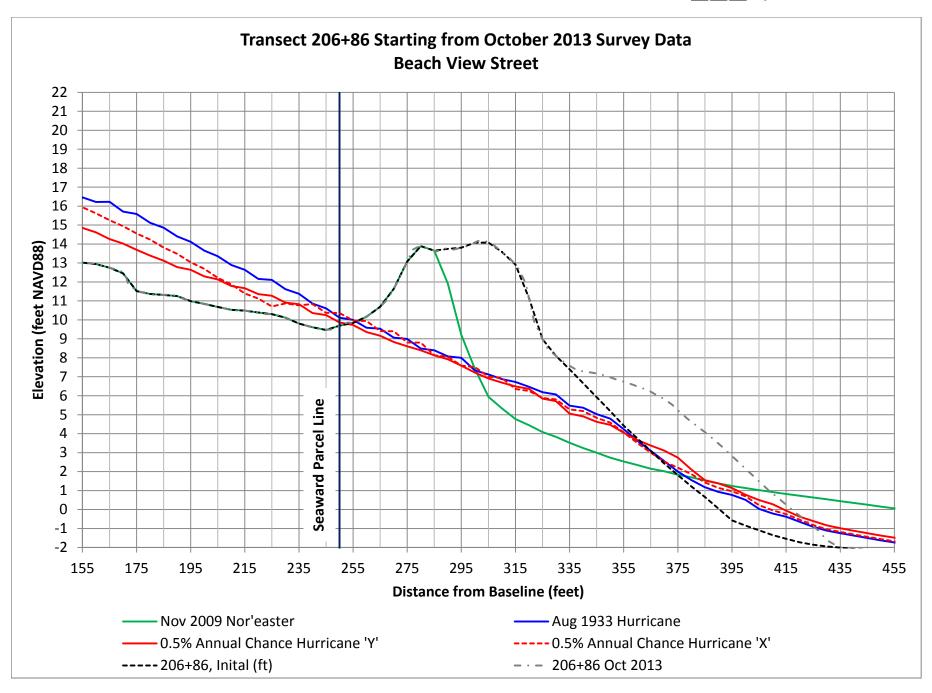


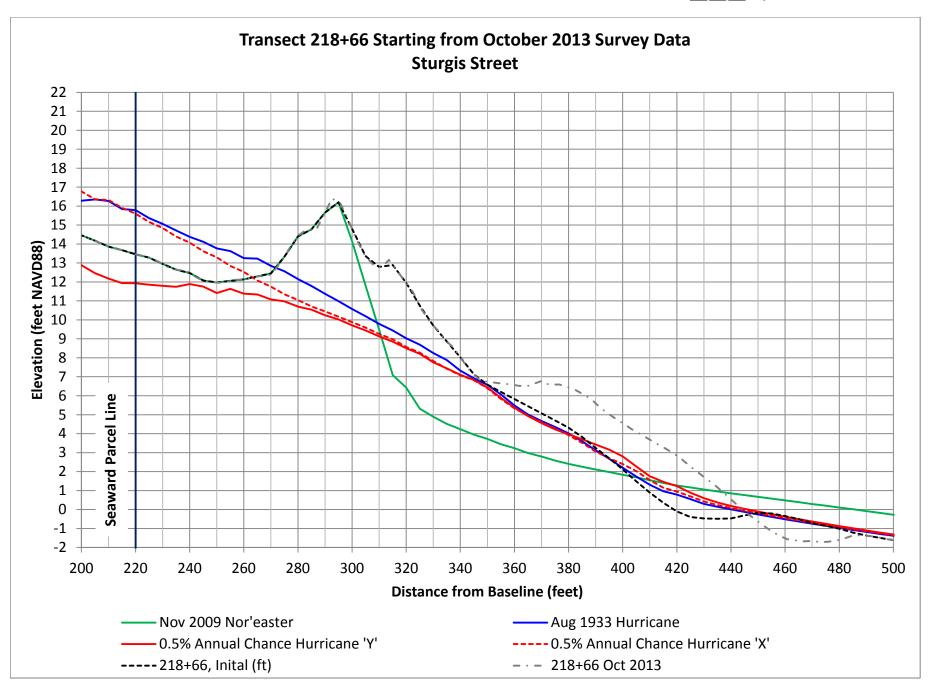


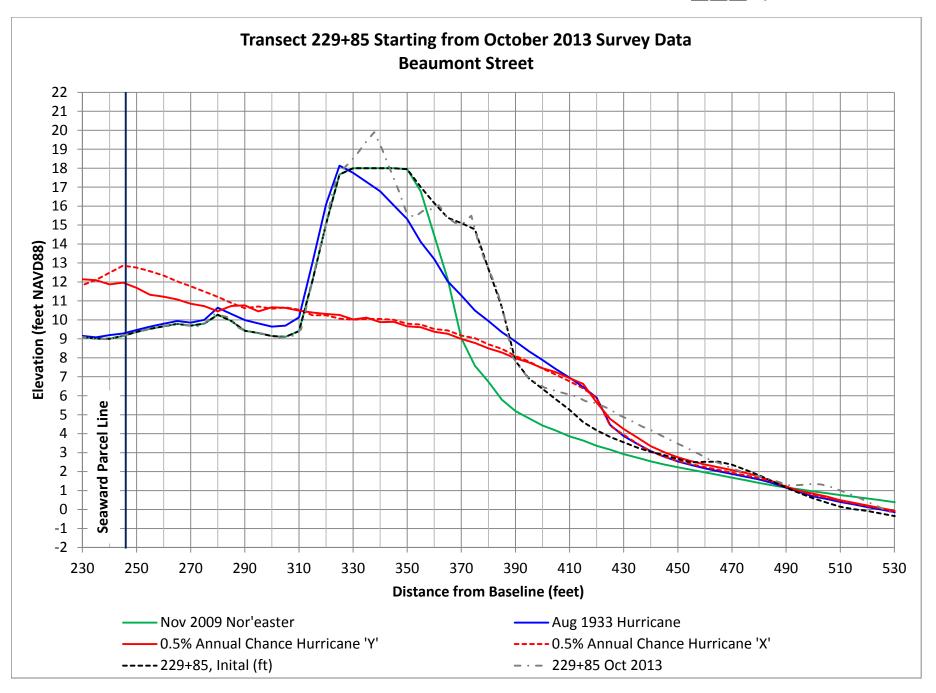


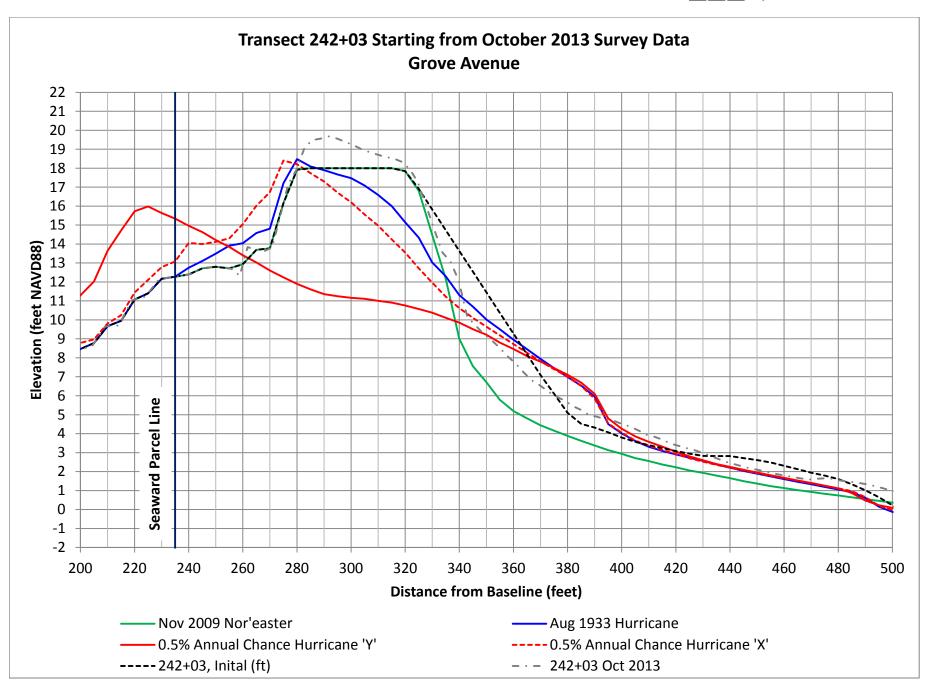


Appendix K: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +18 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation With 1.2 Feet of Relative Sea Level Rise

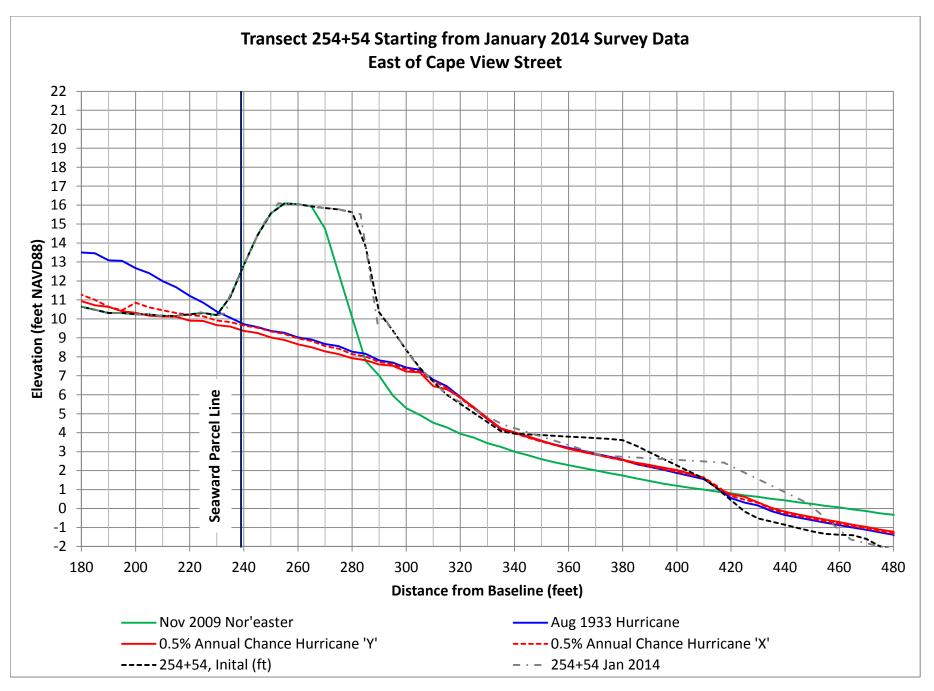




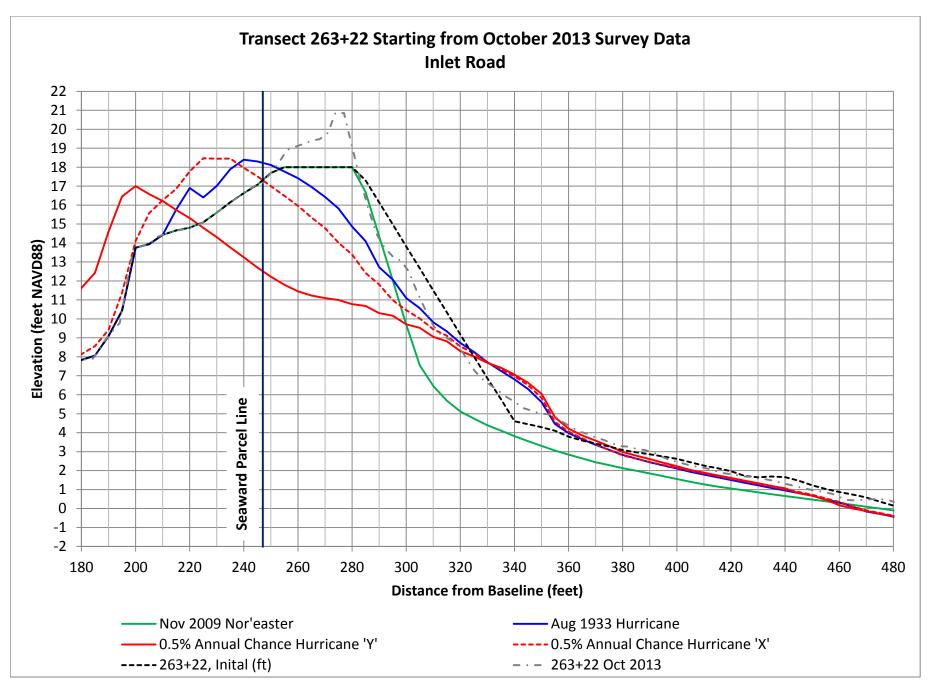




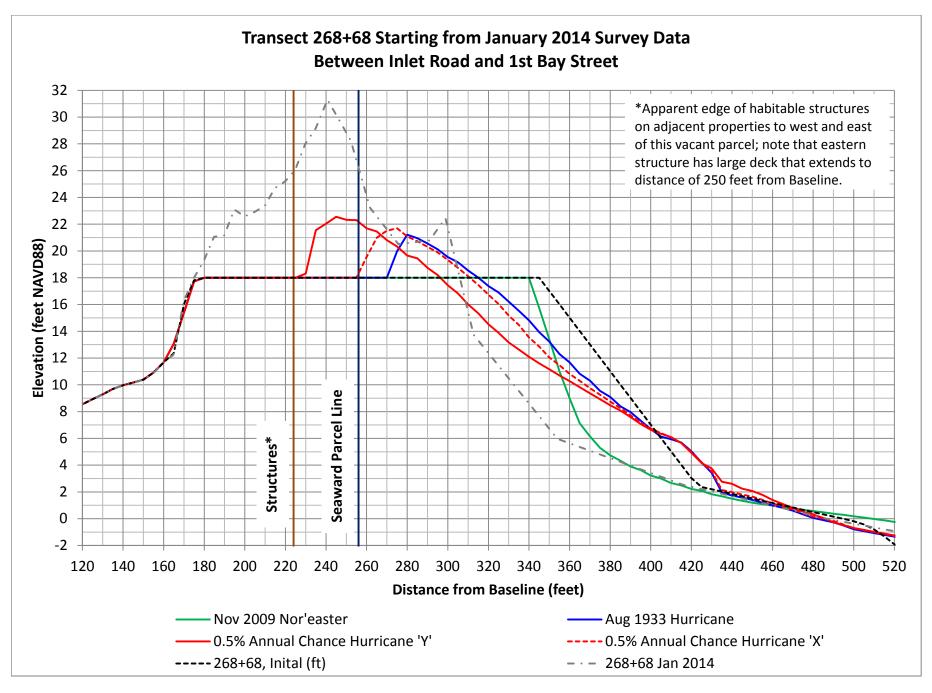


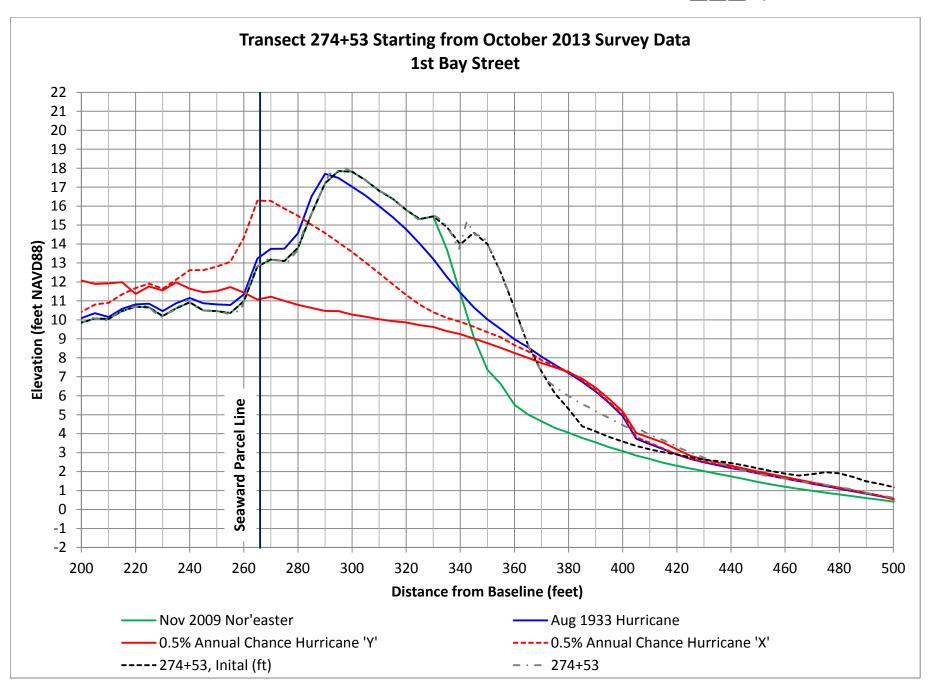


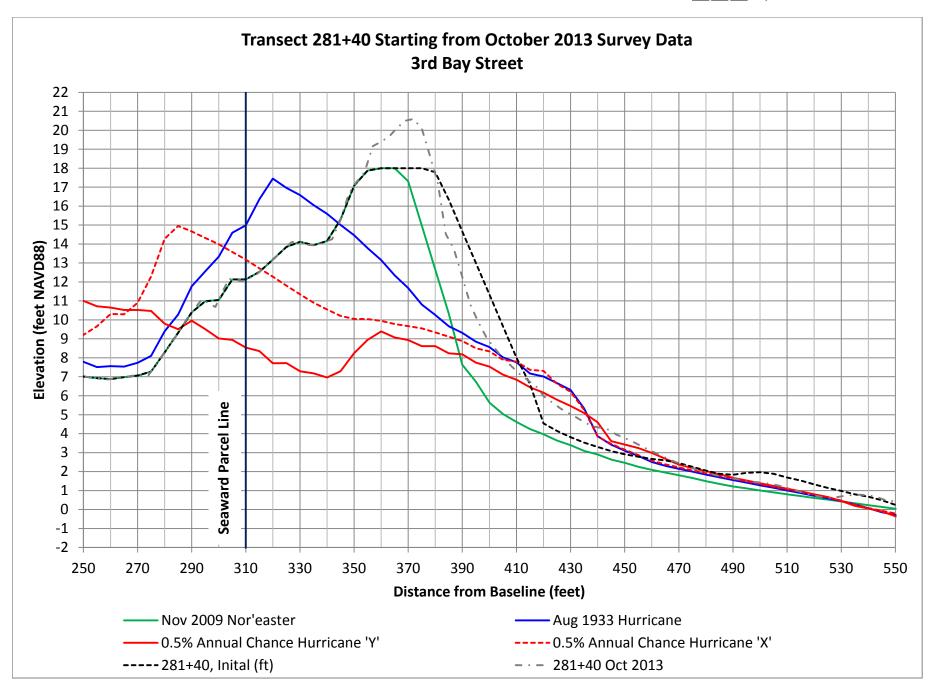




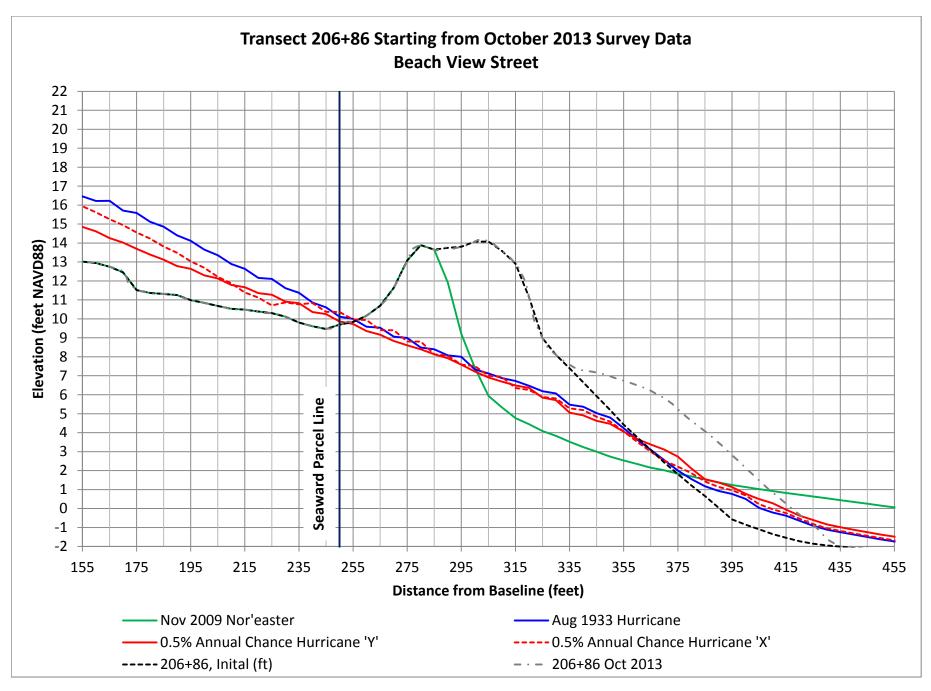


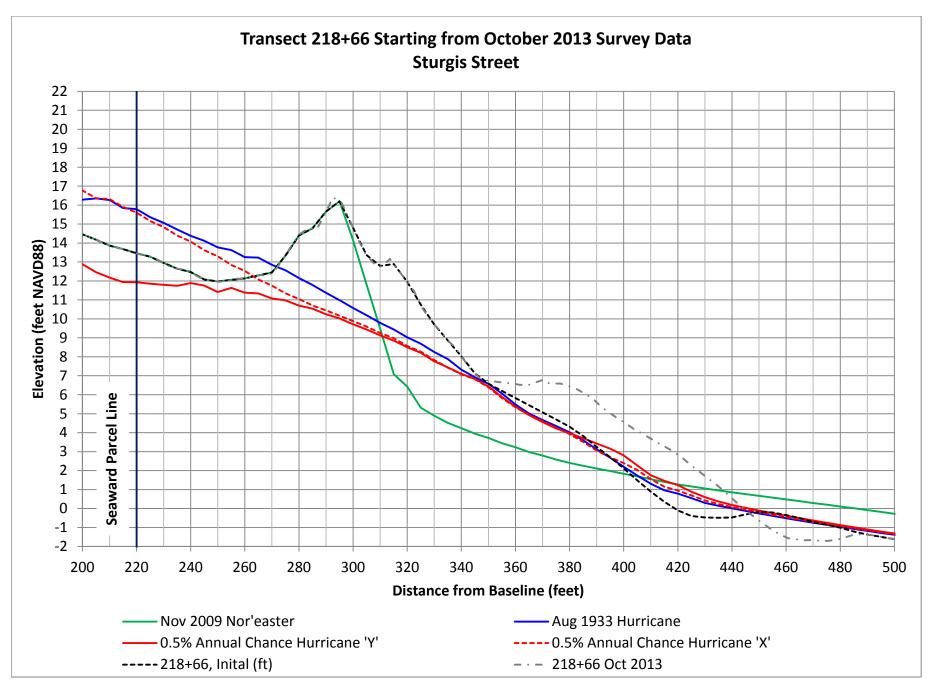


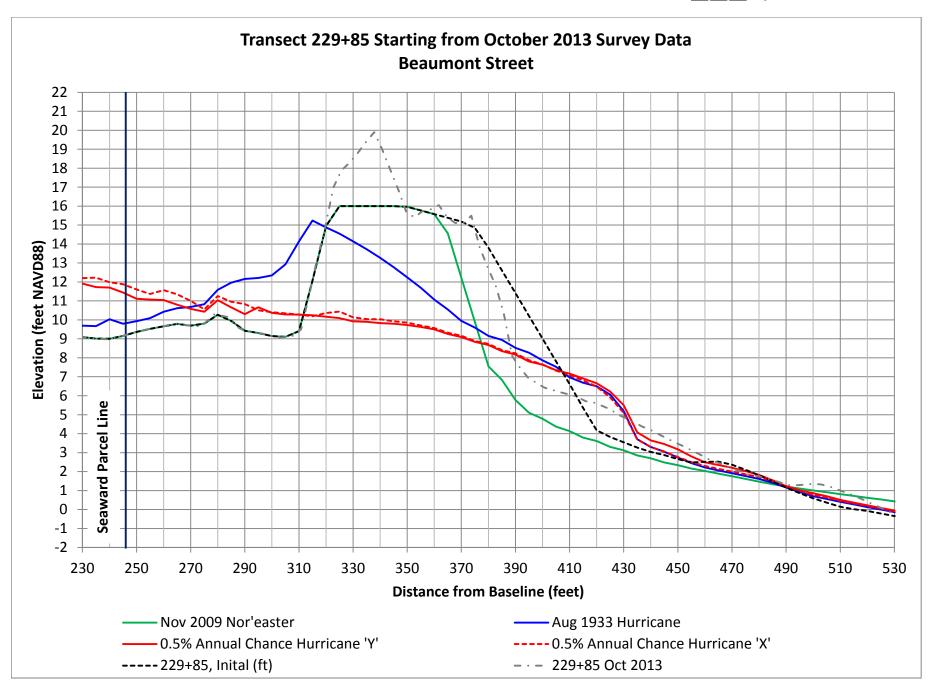


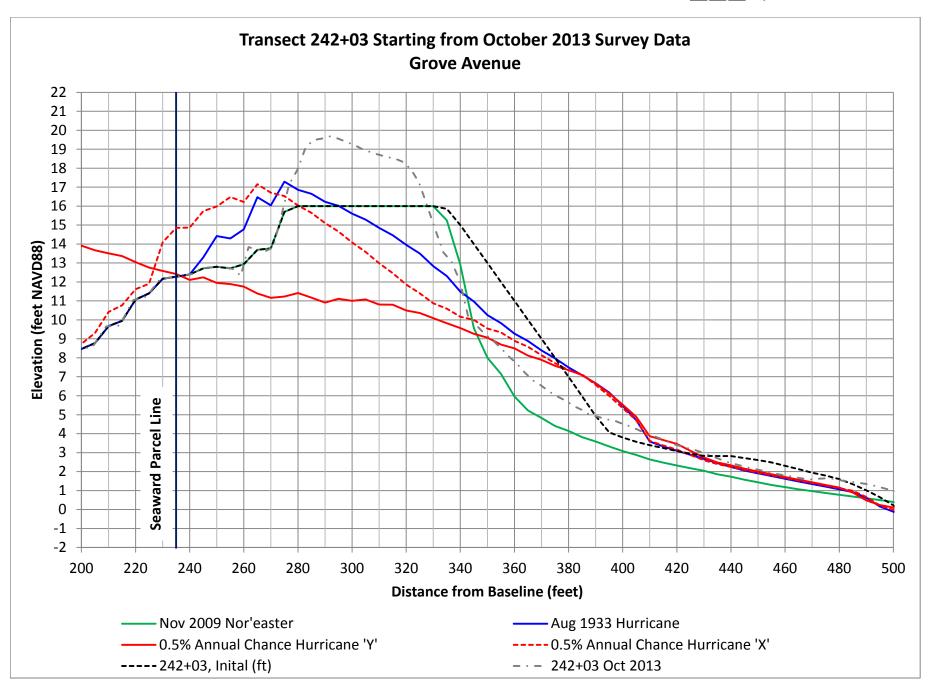


Appendix L: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +16 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation With 1.2 Feet of Relative Sea Level Rise

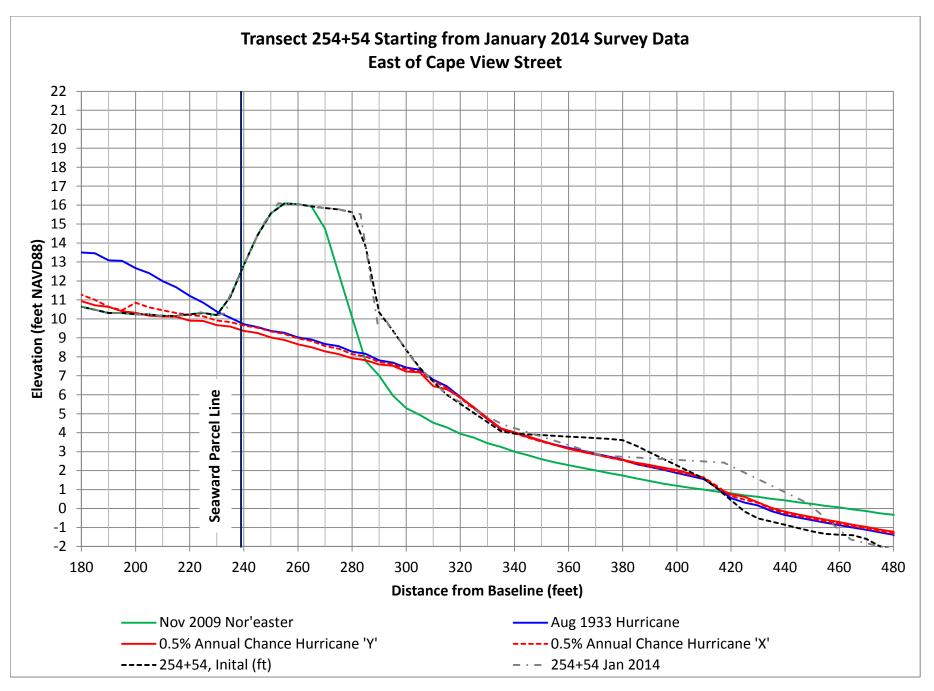


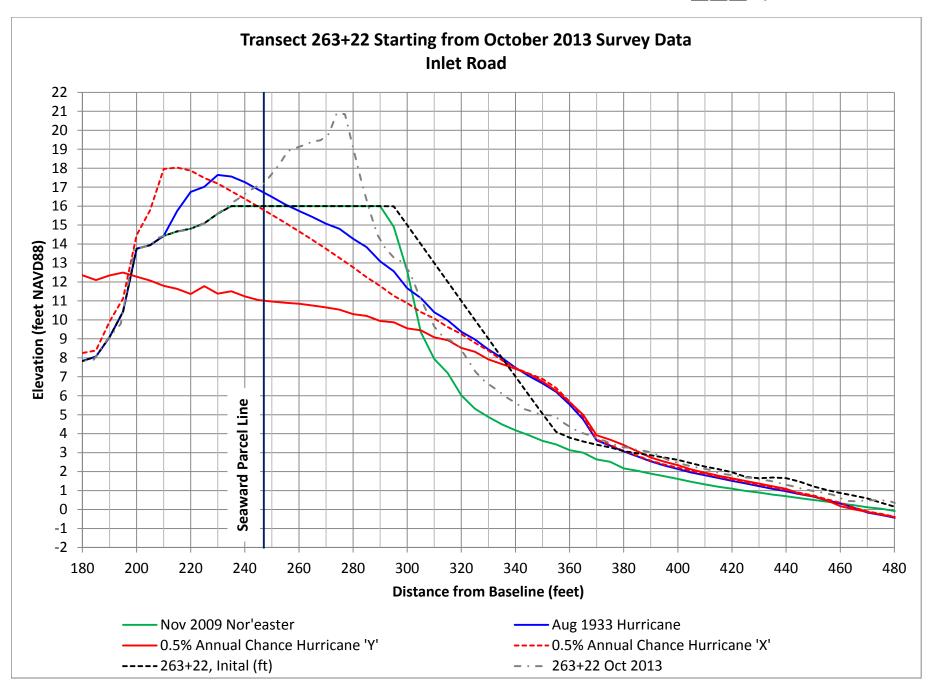




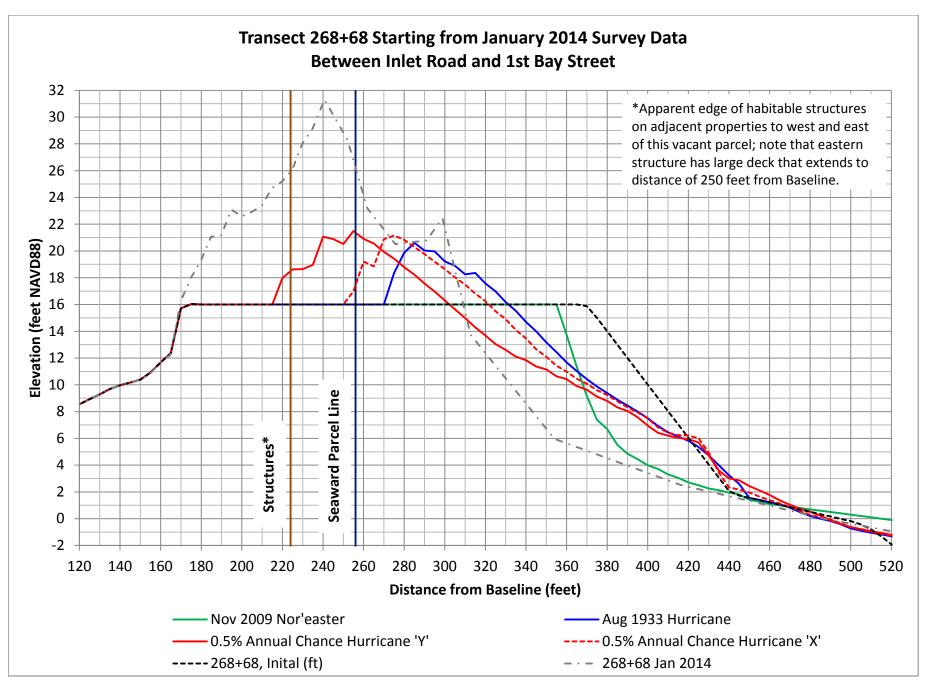


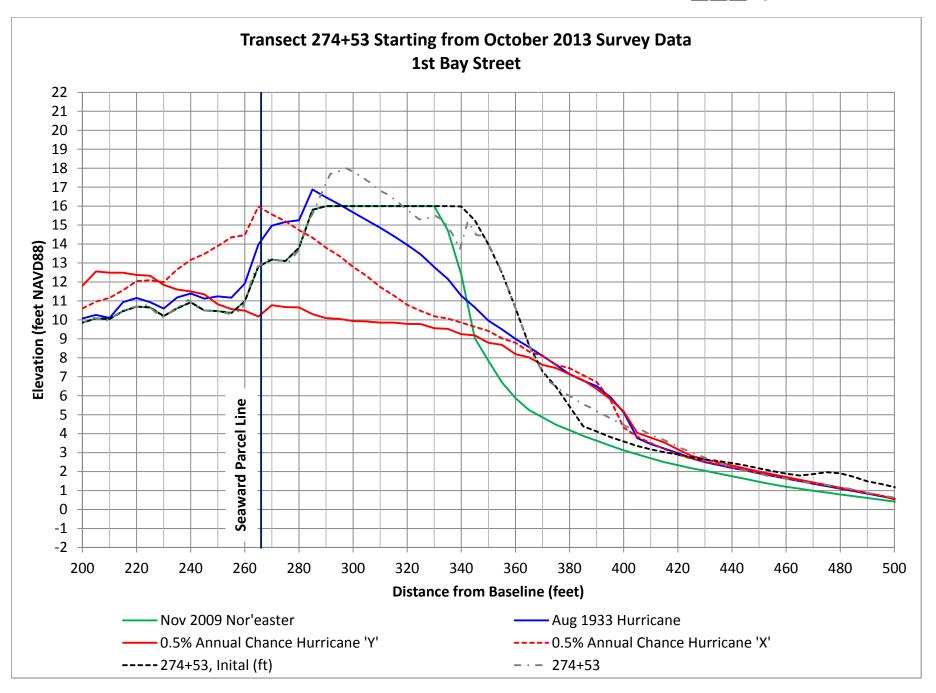


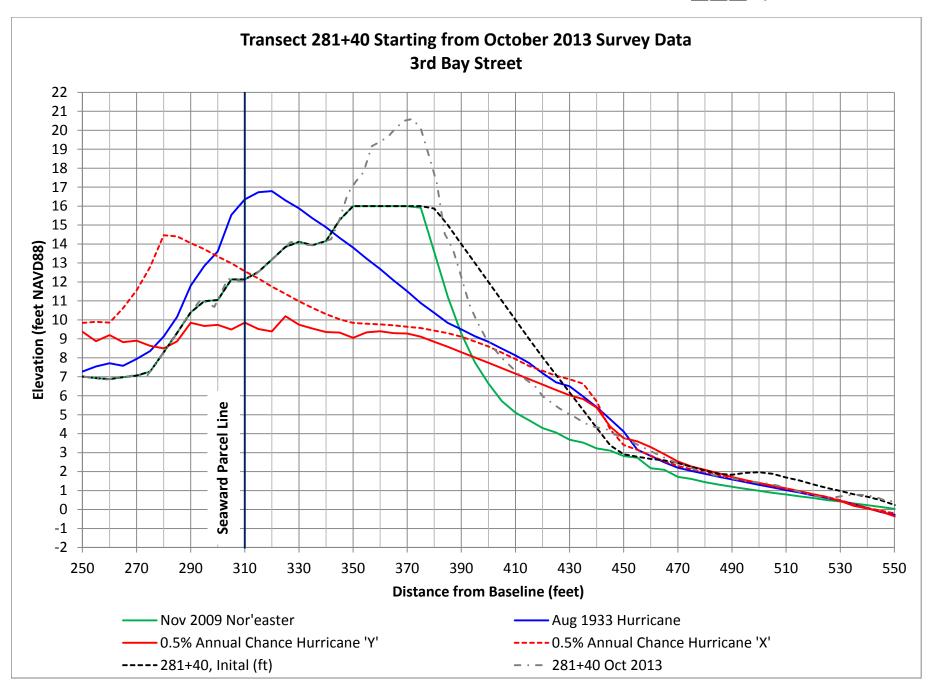












Appendix M: SBEACH Storm Erosion Results, +14 ft NAVD88 Maximum Dune Crest Elevation With 1.2 Feet of Relative Sea Level Rise

